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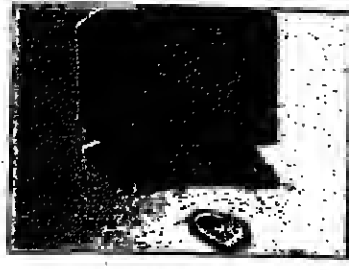
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Sharon map: Two buffer zones, PA 'islands'

By JAY BUSHINSKY

Infrastructure Minister Ariel Sharon is going into today's mini-cabinet meeting on the projected West Bank redeployment with a map delineating two "essential" security zones, one parallel to the Jordan River and the other east of the 1949 armistice line.

As explained to *The Jerusalem Post* yesterday, the Jordan Valley zone would be 20 km. wide and the strip overlooking the coastal plain seven to 10 km. wide. Sharon says these zones are necessary to enable the IDF to cope with what he says is the inevitable establishment of a

Palestinian state in the intervening areas. The narrower zone along the western slopes of the hills of Samaria and the Judean mountains would protect Israel's

Mordechai's map creates 3 Palestinian blocs, Page 2

most densely populated region, while the wider zone spanning the Jordan River Valley would separate the Palestinian state from Jordan.

In Sharon's view, "the Palestinians must not sit on the banks of the Jordan River," because they could thereby undermine and eventually topple the reigning monarchy.

He will enter today's meeting prepared to spell out in detail his geographical, strategic and political concepts to the other three members of the cabinet team charged with demarcating the depth and location of the second troop deployment - Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu, Foreign Minister David Levy and Defense Minister Yitzhak Mordechai.

Those sectors of the proposed security

zones which are populated by Palestinians would be tantamount to "islands" within an Israeli-controlled sea, he says. The IDF would maintain total control of security within them, but the Palestinian Authority would provide their non-Israeli residents with schooling, health services and other civilian needs.

They also would have virtually unrestricted freedom of movement, with few if any IDF roadblocks or other travel restrictions. But the Palestinian "islands" would have to remain as such and not become contiguous to one another.

"It may be necessary to make some

adjustments in the Oslo Accords," Sharon suggests, contending that the alternative would jeopardize Israel's and Jordan's security.

Sharon says he wants the Netanyahu government to "draw our red lines" and make sure that unlike those promulgated in the past they are indelible and irrefutable. PA Chairman Yasser Arafat must be "made to understand that he cannot continue playing games without end."

Sharon's conception of the West Bank heartland, most of which eventually will be under the PA's jurisdiction, is that of a crazy quilt, with patches of Arab-popu-

lated terrain in close proximity but not directly attached to one another.

The geographical patchwork would be even more complicated by the open-ended presence of Israeli settlements in its midst. These would remain intact.

Sharon says the Palestinians will put a much higher priority on their areas being contiguous with one another, to such an extent that they would forgo desolate sections of the Judean desert of the Jordan Valley if they could keep their populated sectors as easily accessible as possible.

See MAP, Page 8



Nazi gold conference
Delegates listen as British Foreign Secretary Robin Cook delivers his opening speech at the conference on Nazi gold in London yesterday. *Stories, Page 2*

Weizman calls on sides to resolve dispute 700,000 on strike

By MICHAL YUDELMAN

The country will grind to a halt today as 700,000 workers walk off the job in an open-ended general strike against government policies.

All government offices and companies, as well as hospitals, the telecommunications sector, banks and other services will be effected if no agreement can be reached between the Histadrut and the government.

The strike will exclude the education system and Egged and Dan

al Arye Shumer late last night. "I call on both sides to postpone the strike and allow time for negotiations to allow the workers to work out their demands in order to prevent the collapse of the economy and services," according to the statement.

Earlier in the evening, Shumer said contacts had been set up with both sides, and Weizman had been in touch with them.

"They are trying to close down the country, and the president is doing his best to keep it open," Shumer said.

"Unfortunately, it doesn't seem like we will be able to totally avert the strike, but there is a good chance that there will be a meeting with the president's involvement early in the morning in the hope that the strike will be stopped," Shumer said.

"Tomorrow, the State of Israel will be closed and nothing will move," cried Histadrut Chairman Amir Peretz last night, after declaring the strike an emergency gathering of thousands of union members in Tel Aviv.

The union leaders supported Peretz's decision and even urged him to start the strike last night, insisting this time the workers will not return to work until the Treasury agrees to keep agreements.

The split between the Treasury and the Histadrut was complete last night, as Peretz refused Finance Minister Yaakov Neeman's request to meet this morning.

See STRIKE, Page 8

Who's on strike

- Hospitals and health funds
- Airports
- Seaports
- Telecommunications
- Israel Electric Corp.
- Ministries and government institutions and corporations
- Local authorities
- Na'amat and WIZO day-care centers
- Banks
- Israel Railways
- Tel Aviv Stock Exchange

Team set up to solve TA garbage dispute, Page 4

bus services.

President Ezer Weizman stepped in late last night in an attempt to avert the strike.

"This strike will have grave implications on the country's economy, and on hundreds of thousands of people, especially in the health, welfare, and industrial fields," Weizman said in a statement read out by Beit Hanassi director-gener-

PA captures 100 kilograms of explosives

By MARGOT DUDKEVITCH, ARIEH O'SULLIVAN and MOHAMMED NAJIB

Palestinian intelligence officials yesterday announced they had found 100 kilograms of explosives in the dormitory room of Zaharan Abu Asbeh, 22, a Hamas activist at an-Najah University in Nablus. Asbeh was arrested.

The officials charged Asbeh was planning to carry out a terrorist attack in Israel.

Other Palestinian sources claimed Asbeh had the explosives in his possession when he was captured by Palestinian policemen. He reportedly was being detained in a Nablus prison.

On November 22, Asbeh's brother Badran, 23, blew himself up while preparing a bomb in his Rafat home. IDF troops found materials used to manufacture bombs in the demolished room. Military sources at the time claimed Asbeh was a Hamas activist.

The two brothers were reported to be followers of Ythay Ayyash, the Engineer. Palestinian intelligence officials said they had gathered information on Asbeh while investigating his brother's death.

Palestinian officials said they alerted the General Security Service shortly after Asbeh was caught.

Palestinian sources claimed the importance of Asbeh's capture was being exaggerated in order to prove to Israel that the PA is combatting terror.

Jerusalem couple found dead in murder-suicide

Police unsure whether top model or PM's hairdresser pulled the trigger

By ELLI WOHLGELERTER

Top fashion model Anat Elimelech and her boyfriend, hairdresser David Afuta, were found dead in their Jerusalem apartment yesterday, in an apparent murder-suicide that has police stymied over who pulled the trigger.

Police found Afuta, 32, on the living room floor with two bullet wounds in his chest. Elimelech, 23, also had a gunshot wound in her chest, and a gun was found close to her body.

Friends said the two, who had been together for five years, had lately been having trouble.

Afuta had been cutting the hair of Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu and his wife, Sara, until two weeks ago, when he stopped servicing them.

"He said it was too hard for him to pick up every day and go give them a haircut," said Isaac Nahmias, a close friend of the couple. "Also, he was having problems with Anat."

Nahmias said he was talking to Afuta till 11 p.m. Monday night, when the hairdresser said he didn't feel well, was feeling sad, and was going to sleep.

"It's a shock to everyone, something you can't believe," Nahmias said. "These two wonderful people, who weren't lacking anything in their lives."

Police said family members tried to contact the couple, and when no one answered their cellular phone or telephone, the father of Elimelech and two brothers of Afuta arrived separately at their apartment in Ramat Beit Hakerem about noon.

Getting no answer at the door, the brothers climbed onto the roof and made their way into the penthouse apartment through a window.

Upon discovering the bodies, they called police.

Elimelech had appeared on



Anat Elimelech and boyfriend David Afuta (Courtesy of Kol Ha'ir)

Afuta pushed her to become a model.

Greer Fay Cashman adds: Shock waves swept through the modelling and fashion industries at the news that Elimelech was dead.

"I was shocked to hear that she came to such a violent end," said Ofer Raphaeli of the Look Agency, which discovered her when she was 16.

A beauty with magnificent blue eyes, Elimelech was both a photographic and a runway model with enormous potential. The high point in her career was when she modelled for the exclusive Elite international agency in Tokyo, said Raphaeli.

Elimelech's ambitions ran beyond modelling, and two years ago Look introduced her to an actors' agent, who got her into television productions and commercials.

Elimelech, according to both Raphaeli and Nurit Bat Yaar, *Yedioth Aharonot's* long-time fashion columnist, did not allow success to go to her head.

"Her feet were firmly planted on the ground," said Bat Yaar. "She wasn't flighty like many of the other models. I just can't imagine her involved in any act of violence."

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PM to meet Albright in Europe

By JAY BUSHINSKY and HILLEL KUTTNER

Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu will have an unforeseen opportunity to outline the government's projected West Bank troop pullback when he meets US Secretary of State Madeleine Albright in Europe this weekend.

The rendezvous is scheduled to

Widow of Beirut community head living here in poverty

By BAT SHEVA TSUR

The wife of the former head of the Beirut Jewish community has been living here in abject poverty and supports her three children by cleaning houses. Her husband disappeared 15 years ago, apparently kidnapped by Syrian agents.

The woman, M., never received any recognition of her status or help from the state, despite the fact that both she and her husband had been Prisoners of Zion.

M. managed to reach Israel about 14 years

ago by bribing Lebanese border officials. However, she was shot twice in the back as she tried to cross over, her son said. Earlier, she had spent a year-and-a-half in jail for pro-Israel activities.

Her husband was abducted twice after the authorities learned he had smuggled Jews into Israel. Although he was returned the first time, he has not been heard from since being abducted from his office in 1982, the son said. A family friend from Beirut corroborated the details and said that the family had been extremely well established in Beirut.

The story emerged yesterday at an emergency meeting of the Knesset State Control Committee, called by chairman Yossi Katz (Labor), with the participation of the woman's son, family friends, and Ya'acov Mizrahi, head of the Kiryat Ata Religious Council. Absorption Ministry representatives also attended.

Mizrahi said he had come across the woman when she appealed to the council to prove that she is Jewish. He said he was amazed by her plight and decided to write to MKs to demand state recognition for her.

"This is an extremely unusual case of injustice," said Katz, who said he had been informed by the Prime Minister's Office that M.'s husband is no longer alive. Attempts had been made to free him, Katz said, and when it was established that he was dead, to retrieve his remains.

Katz appealed to ministry officials to arrange a special pension for the woman, as the widow of a person who had died in enemy hands.

Ministry officials said they are considering various options to help her.



However, senior government officials did not disclose the precise venue or time, except to say that it would be somewhere between the German and French capitals.

See ALBRIGHT, Page 8

NEWS

in brief

Arad in Washington today

Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu's adviser Uzi Arad was to arrive in Washington last night for a day of meetings with US officials. He is to fly to New York tonight. An embassy official said that Arad's visit would deal mainly with Israeli concern over Russia's continued support for Iran's nuclear and missile programs.

Mordechai testifies about Mashaal Affair

Defense Minister Yitzhak Mordechai who appeared yesterday before the Knesset Subcommittee on Secret Services, which is investigating the Mashaal Affair, later said he expects no problem if the Knesset committee and the government-appointed investigative committee headed by Joseph Ciechanover reach different conclusions.

IDF arrests 12 near Bethlehem

IDF troops arrested 12 Palestinians from the Abadiyah village near Bethlehem late Monday night. The IDF Spokesman said the Palestinians are suspected of belonging to terrorist organizations and have been transferred to the General Security Services for questioning.

Rabin: IDF will withdraw in West Bank

Yuval Rabin, the leader of the Dor Shalom movement, came away from a meeting with Foreign Minister David Levy convinced that there will be an IDF pullback in the West Bank, if only because Levy will see to it that there is one.

PLO wants UN status upgraded to state

The UN General Assembly, resuming its annual debate on the "question of Palestine," was last night considering a resolution that would upgrade the UN status of the Palestine Liberation Organization to that of a state, with some limits on its privileges.

NRP meets with US official

Richard Erdman, political counselor at the US Embassy, told National Religious Party MKs yesterday that the US understands that Israel will not progress with the peace process until the Palestinians fulfill all their obligations under the Hebron Agreement.

Farrakhan seeks official meetings

Nation of Islam leader Louis Farrakhan has requested meetings with Israeli officials when he hopes to visit the country on January 7, an embassy official said.

Mordechai map creates 3 PA blocs

By ARIEH O'SULLIVAN

The defense establishment plan for a troop pullback calls for establishing three blocs of Palestinian-controlled regions in the West Bank focusing on Jenin and Nablus in the North and Hebron in the South, defense sources said.

Under the proposal, some Jewish settlements will find themselves surrounded by Palestinian rule. Defense Minister Yitzhak Mordechai is to present the plan in the meeting today with the cabinet - made up of Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu, Foreign Minister David Levy,

National Infrastructure Minister Ariel Sharon and Mordechai. They are to draw up the final maps and timetables for implementing the second redeployment.

In preparation for today's meeting, Mordechai gathered top defense officials and IDF brass in his office yesterday to mull the

various options for the second troop withdrawal. Participating in the 90-minute meeting was Deputy Defense Minister Silvan Shalom, Chief of General Staff Lt-Gen. Amnon Lipkin Shahak, OC Planning Maj-Gen. Shlomo Yanai, Coordinator for government activities in the territories Maj-Gen. Ya'acov Or and other senior officers.

The "security interest" map is essentially the same drawn up prior to the March redeployment, which was never implemented after the Palestinians rejected it.

See MORDECHAI, Page 8

Peace Now calls for evacuating isolated settlements

By MARGOT DUDKEVITCH

Peace Now called for the evacuation of 24 settlements and for 50 percent of the West Bank to be handed over to the Palestinians as part of the interim agreement before final status talks begin.

In a press conference at Jerusalem's Beit Agron yesterday, the group revealed a map depicting its plans, saying that IDF redeployment should be carried out in such a way to provide Palestinian control over contiguous areas which include the bulk of the Palestinian population.

The Oslo Accords, which granted geographic contiguity to all the settlements in Area C, also fragmented Palestinian villages, breaking them up into approximately 190 islands, Hebrew University Prof. Amiram Goldblum said.

Area B, he continued, was delineated according to Palestinian population concentrations and the separation between these concentrations is the result of settlement locations and access roads to the settlements and transportation arteries in the West Bank.

Peace Now is calling for the evacuation of settlements in the West Bank and Gaza Strip which it says form small, isolated clusters which are difficult and expensive to protect. The settlements include the Jewish community in Hebron, Elon Moreh, Itamar,



Hebrew University Prof. Amiram Goldblum explains Peace Now's redeployment proposal at a press conference in Jerusalem yesterday. (Brian Hestler)

Yizhar, Otniel, Beit Haggai, Eli, Ofra and Ma'aleh Levana.

In contrast, Goldblum said, approximately 45 settlements in the Jordan Valley and Hebron hills are not surrounded by densely populated Palestinian villages and access to them can be assured without passing through Palestinian-controlled areas. The 30 settlements close to the Green

Line are similar in status, he added.

Meanwhile, the Government Press Office said that the Declaration of Principles and Interim agreement in Oslo 2 do not restrict or prohibit the establishment or expansion of Jewish communities in Judea, Samaria and Gaza. The statement quoted former prime minister Yitzhak Rabin

presenting Oslo 2 to the Knesset on October 5, 1995.

"I wish to remind you we made a commitment, meaning we reached an agreement, we made a commitment to the Knesset not to uproot any settlement in the framework of the Interim Agreement, nor freeze construction or natural growth," Rabin said.

US, UK open \$6m. fund for Holocaust victims at gold parley

By DOUGLAS DAVIS

LONDON - The US and Britain said yesterday, at the opening of an international conference on Nazi gold, that they opened a fund of nearly \$6 million to compensate Holocaust survivors.

France, however, is understood to have refused to join its Tripartite Gold Commission partners in contributing to the fund.

British Foreign Secretary Robin Cook announced at the 42-nation London Conference on Nazi Gold yesterday that British government had opened an account at the Federal Reserve Bank of New York and had made a deposit of \$1 million as the basis for the fund.

The head of the US delegation, Undersecretary of State Stuart Eizenstat, immediately announced that the Clinton administration would make a downpayment of \$4 million on what given congressional approval, would amount to a total contribution of \$25m. over the next three years.

France, the third member of the commission, which was set up immediately after the war to disburse gold that the Nazis had plundered from Holocaust victims and occupied countries, has so far declined to make a commitment to the British-American fund.

Instead, France - a beneficiary as well as an executor of the commission - is expected to use its share to create its own fund to

assist specifically French victims of the Holocaust.

The announcement of the \$6m. fund came one day after a new Swiss study reported that Nazi Germany stole \$146m. in gold - on Holocaust victims and other individuals.

Yet another document, released yesterday by the Simon Wiesenthal Center, confirmed anew the extent of looting from individuals. US Army documents show that 5,276 gold bars were recovered from sources including the "Melmer" accounts, named after SS Hauptsturmfuhrer Bruno Melmer, who was responsible for laundering stolen gold.

Much of the recovered gold was thought to be "monetary gold" that came from banks, as opposed to gold from individuals. All but 1.4 percent of the 337 tons of gold has been distributed by the Tripartite Gold Commission.

At the three-day conference, Britain and the US were hoping to convince the 15 claimant countries to contribute all or most of their shares of the final tranche - worth about \$60m. - to the fund, which is intended to benefit the most needy survivors, mostly in eastern Europe.

Cook told the conference that the claimants had "responded positively" to the suggestion and added that "a number of countries have already said they will make contributions." He did not identify them. A state that forfeits its national

claim to the gold could contribute its share to the British-American fund, or designate it to be used for Nazi victims within its own borders.

Cook urged delegates to "avoid the second tragedy of those who survived the Holocaust being left to live on their days in poverty."

The legacy of the Nazis "still leaves a heavy band on the world," he said. "But the legacy is not all bad. Britain and Germany are now leading members of a European Union, which has made another war in Europe unthinkable. The people of Israel have created their own state, built out of the hopes of a people that survived. And we have the inspiration of those who will not allow the Holocaust to be forgotten."

Edgar Bronfman, president of the World Jewish Congress, said in London that it would be "a symbolic measure of justice" to hand over the remaining Nazi gold to Holocaust survivors.

"The request for this gold is not being made as a favor," he said. "It is based on the awful facts that are now known and which we must face up to."

Bronfman declined to specify the precise amount he believes is due to Jewish survivors, but said he considered it to be "a nine-figure number - and I am keeping the first number in my head."

However, Thomas Borer, head of the Swiss delegation, dismissed the demand in an interview to Swiss Radio. "If justified demands for money are presented, they will be met immediately, but it will be up to the Swiss government to decide, not this kind of blanket demand for money."

Eizenstat said the conference represented "an important step toward completing a significant portion of the unfinished business of the Second World War."

And referring to the fund, he added: "We are doing so in a way which extends both a moral gesture and a material contribution to justice, however little and late, for Holocaust survivors."

Marilyn Henry contributed to this report.

Russian envoy to Levy: We'll help renew talks

By JAY BUSHINSKY

Russia's readiness to help renew the multilateral talks which are a key component of the Middle East peace process and to offer Moscow as a venue for the talks was announced yesterday by visiting Russian Deputy Foreign Minister Victor Possavalyuk.

In a meeting with Foreign Minister David Levy, the Russian diplomat, who recently was given the concurrent post of Middle East peace envoy by President Boris Yeltsin, stressed the importance of the next IDF pullback's size and scope.

Levy briefed Possavalyuk about the government's decision in principle to redeploy and hand over more territory to the Palestinian Authority.

Possavalyuk was scheduled to proceed to Damascus for talks with Syrian officials as part of his regional tour.

Earlier, Levy conferred with PA Chairman Mahmoud Abbas. PA Chairman Yasser Arafat's adviser, Ahmed Tibi, and Levy's aide, Yaacov Bardugo, also attended the session.

Neither Levy nor Abbas would reveal any details of their conversation. Levy only said that it was "important to continue working together and natural that we should meet to evaluate the situation."

In a parallel development, Foreign Ministry director-general Eitan Bentsur briefed the European Union's peace envoy, Miguel Moratinos, on the cabinet decision to redeploy the IDF in the West Bank.

Obituary for Isaac (Issy) Freedman. Text: "With deep sorrow we mourn the sudden passing of our beloved husband, father, grandfather and brother ISAAC (ISSY) FREEDMAN." Lists wife Rose Ruth, sons Gillian and David Hirst, Miriam and Gary Hest, Carol and Michael Wohlforth, Naomi Yarden, brother and sister-in-law Lionel and Freda Freedman, and sisters & brother-in-law Betty and Bernardo Herschthal, Zeida and Henry Portnoy.

Obituary for Issy Freedman. Text: "We mourn together with our sister and all the family the death of our beloved brother-in-law ISSY FREEDMAN." Lists Helen and Alex Gross and family, Judith and Jony Myers and family.

Obituary for Jan Goldsztejn. Text: "With deep sorrow we mourn the passing of our beloved Husband, Father and Grandfather JAN GOLDSZTEJN." Lists funeral at 10.30 am at the Herzliya Cemetery. Lists Helen Goldsztejn, Victor Goldsztejn and family, Esther Ben Ari and family.

WJC to request moratorium on Swiss banks sanctions. Text: "LONDON (AP) - The World Jewish Congress announced Monday that it will ask for a moratorium on sanctions against Swiss banks for a limited period of time." Details the WJC's request to the US State Department and the Swiss government.

SOCIAL & PERSONAL. Text: "THE WEEKLY MEETING of the English-speaking Jerusalem Rotary Club will take place today at 1:00 p.m. at the YMCA, King David Street. Mr. Shervin Pomerantz will speak on economic developments for Israel."

DILEMMA of the National Camp. Nadia Matar interviews Yisrael Harel - Author and Columnist, Geula Cohen - Former Knesset Member, also Yuli Edelstein - Minister of Absorption, on his visit with Jonathan Pollard. Tonight Wednesday, December 3, at 9:00 p.m. Arutz 7 - English Program, 97.3 FM Radio. Women in Green. P.O.B. 7352, Jerusalem. Telemesser 03-636-3549. Circle on Your Calendar December 28, 1997. Over Gala Annual Family Hanukka Party in Hebron. Don't miss it! Reserve now! Call Telemesser 03-636-3549. Walk into Wall Street CLARK ADDISON Securities Ltd. U.S. STOCK AND COMMODITY BROKERS. DISCOUNT COMMISSIONS. Tel. 02-624-7765, Fax. 02-623-5759. 25 Keren Hayesod St., Jerusalem.

Beilin outlines Lebanon pullback plan. Talk. The most advanced telephone serv...

As Tel Aviv garbage piles up

Milo, Peretz set up team to solve dispute

By MICHAL YUDELMAN

Tel Aviv Mayor Ronni Milo and Histadrut Chairman Amir Peretz met yesterday and decided to set up a joint team to try to solve the labor dispute between the city and its sanitation workers, whose strike enters its seventh day today. The two said they hoped the team would reach an agreement by tomorrow, which would enable the resumption of garbage collection to the city.

The workers, however, announced they would continue the strike and refuse to take part in the negotiations until Milo gets rid of the private contractors he hired to collect garbage.

Meanwhile, garbage has been piling up and blocks entire sidewalks in narrow streets. In other places, garbage bags are strewn on the road itself, constituting a traffic hazard.

In the early morning hours, dog owners can be seen watching their pets scuffle around happily in the garbage, while the city's stray cat community is ecstatic about the new state of things.

Yesterday morning, hundreds of sanitation workers, joined by other city employees and by municipal workers from Rishon LeZion and Rehovot, held a stormy demonstration at Kikar Rabin, facing City Hall, at which they burned an effigy of Milo and shouted slogans against the mayor. They also unsuccessfully yelled for him to come down to talk to them.

The workers are protesting Milo's hiring garbage collectors via private contractors and accuse him of secretly planning to replace them.

Municipal union leader Amnon Bar-David revealed that the city management suggested in negotiations that the workers clean only the northern, affluent part of the city, while ignoring southern neighborhoods and Jaffa, with its Arab population.

He rejected the city's complaints regarding the sanitation workers' inefficiency, explaining that the sanitation department "is still run as though it were in the



Striking sanitation workers burn an effigy of Tel Aviv Mayor Ronni Milo during a demonstration opposite City Hall yesterday. One worker briefly held up a sign calling Milo a "Nazi dog." The police asked him to take it down, and he did. (Israel Sun)

19th century. The city has grown down personnel and then complaining they're not working hard enough.

MKs argue over direct-election law

By BATSHEVA TSUR

Pandemonium broke out in the normally staid Knesset Law Committee yesterday as MKs crossed lines to express their intense views on the law governing direct elections of the prime minister after

MK Moshe Shahal [Labor] presented a private member's bill that would do away with the new system.

The bill passed a preliminary reading in the Knesset but had been held up for nine months on the desk of committee chairman Shaul Yahalom (NRP) until Shahal decided to petition the High Court of Justice to force his hand.

Yahalom has admitted publicly that he believes the amendment would make the religious parties redundant.

Opening the meeting, which was attended by a bevy of constitutional experts and former MKs who had a say in the law's formulation, Yahalom said he had delayed bringing the proposed

amendment to the committee, "because [he] felt it had little chance of passing."

Shahal put forward a carefully prepared case. "From the inception, I opposed the [direct-election] system which has no equal anywhere in the world," Shahal said. "The only system which resembles it is that of South Korea and I doubt whether we should use that as a model... We have moved from a parliamentary democracy into a mixed-up system where the Knesset can fire the prime minister and vice versa... When we consulted foreign experts, 19 out of 20 said this was not a desirable system."

The amendment is not aimed at Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu specifically, he stressed.

The Knesset is at its lowest point, Shahal continued. The prime minister hardly ever attends and the "fragmented coalition" comes merely to vote.

"Why don't you say straight that you want to get rid of the religious parties?" interjected Yahalom.

At this point, a heated debate for and against broke out between the numerous MKs who had crowded into the committee room.

But former justice minister David Liba'i (Labor) cautioned against rushing to change the new system.

"Give it a chance," he said. "It has many good points." Direct elections helped with the swift formation of the government, Liba'i said. The system has led to a stable government and individual MKs or factions are not likely to break away and cross the floor as they did with the previous system.

Liat Collins adds:

Meanwhile, a meeting of the Knesset House Committee on a request by MK Rafi Eini (Labor) to remove Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu from his position broke up early when coalition whip Meir Sheerit (Likud) refused to allow the media into the room to cover it. In response the Labor MKs on the committee walked out.

Tichon: Presidential vote Feb. 24

Knesset Speaker Dan Tichon yesterday decided that the Knesset vote electing the president will take place February 24, 1998. The decision will be presented to the Knesset plenum for approval shortly.

The president is elected for a five-year term according to the Hebrew calendar. The election has to take place no later than 90 days after and no earlier than 30 days before the end of the incumbent's term. Once the election date has been determined, candidates can be suggested in writing. The proposals must be presented no later than 10 days before the election.

Netanyahu presents equal rights bill

The Knesset plenum witnessed a couple of unusual events yesterday. Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu personally presented for first reading a bill calling for a state commission to promote equal opportunities for women and Labor MK Yael Dayan praised the prime minister for his efforts. The bill was passed unanimously by 14 MKs.

It is almost unheard of for a premier to personally present a bill to the Knesset, Netanyahu noted.

He said the problem of sexual equality is not just a problem for women.

"When women do not get an opportunity to use their talents and do not work and when their children are educated in stigmas; when people are convinced that a person is inferior because of her gender; when there are men who believe a woman is their private property; and particularly when men believe they have the right to hit women or psychologically abuse them - I think that it is not just the women who lose out. I think the whole society loses," he said.

"Women in the Knesset in the

AT THE KNESSET

By LIAT COLLINS

different parties and organizations for years have aimed at establishing such an authority and today we can praise its fruition," Dayan said. "Now, facing the Knesset committees and legislators will be an executive body with teeth, which will be feminist, an auxiliary of the Prime Minister's Office."

Knesset passes adoption bill

By a vote of 19 to 2, the Knesset last night passed second and third (final) readings of a bill which would allow families to adopt a child of a different religion as long as it does not harm the child's interests. The bill was submitted by MKs Yael Dayan (Labor) and Dedi Zucker (Meretz).

The bill was not opposed by religious MKs, and was even supported by Knesset Law Committee Chairman Shaul Yahalom (NRP) and MK Nissim Dahan (Shas).

MKs Abdul Wahab Darawshe (Democratic Arab Party) and Nawaf Massalha (Labor) voted against it.

Yahalom explained that a non-Jewish child adopted abroad would be recognized as an Israeli. Dahan said he supported the bill because until now families often converted the child abroad according to non-Orthodox movements.

The bill should come into force on January 1, but will apply to children adopted in the previous

six months.

Kahalani takes flak for police violence

Internal Security Minister Avigdor Kahalani (Third Way) and MK Michael Nudelman (Yisrael Ba'aliyah) argued yesterday in the Knesset over the demonstration by new immigrants from the CIS against the police on Monday.

During a meeting of the Knesset Finance Committee on the police budget, Kahalani told Nudelman: "You [plural form] want to hurt me. For two months I've felt that you're against me and you want to bring about my dismissal. At the demonstration [Monday] there were signs which read: 'Kahalani go home!' It's not acceptable that one party should settle scores with another party [this way]."

Nudelman said: "The police must courageously deal with the phenomenon of police violence and there should be decent treatment of immigrants. Who do you mean when you say 'you'? New immigrants are not part of the country as far as you're concerned. If police in Ashkelon claim they were hit by pensioners who are new immigrants, they should have no place in the police force. The police should show greater sensitivity to citizens."

Yishai: Establish hot line for drug problems

Labor and Social Affairs Minister Eli Yishai yesterday proposed establishing a toll-free telephone hot line, which would operate 24 hours a day to help youths in trouble because of drugs. Yishai met with the Knesset Anti-Drugs Committee chaired by MK Eli Ben-Menahem (Labor).

Batsheva Tsur contributed to this report.

Shahal wants tougher law for incitement

By LIAT COLLINS

On the same day that two MKs - one on the Left and one on the Right - received death threats, MK Moshe Shahal (Labor) submitted a bill which states that incitement is an offense and calls for a five-year sentence. Until now, incitement has not been defined in law and offenders were charged with instigating a rebellion.

In presenting the bill yesterday, Shahal said that politicians had been too tolerant of the incitement which preceded the assassination of Yitzhak Rabin and the law was helpless because it only had the rebellion charges to act under.

His bill defines an inciter as someone who publicly calls for a criminal act or act of violence.

He said that only the attorney general would be able to press incitement charges to avoid a situation in which almost any harsh words could be interpreted as incitement. He said he expects the bill to receive support from MKs from across the House.

Yesterday NRP whip Hanan Porat received a second death threat in two weeks, signed "Peace on Earth." The letter came with a bullet attached.

MK Abdul Malik Dahamshe (Democratic Arab Party) received a fax, possibly from overseas, written in Hebrew marking the anniversary of the death of Meir Kahane.

"It's time for revenge. Now it's your turn," the fax read. It was signed "Jews for a solely Jewish State and Regime" and is the third such threat he has received in less than three weeks. The police are investigating.

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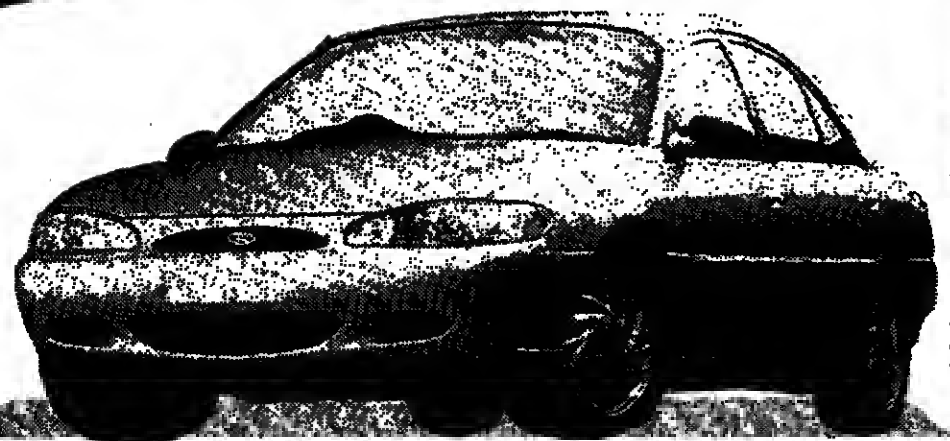
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مكتبة التعمير

Clalit to make members pay for special drugs

By JUDY SIEGEL

Kupat Holim Clalit announced yesterday it would no longer be able to supply members with medications it was not required to by the official basket of health services.

fund's operation more efficient, is cynical and irresponsible."

This brings to three the number of health funds that have cut back on these vital drugs, leaving only Maccabi supplying them.

Clalit director-general Yitzhak Peterburg told the Health Consumers' Association, the Israel Cancer Association and the Israel AIDS Committee that these drugs would no longer be provided due to the fund's deficit.

Health Minister Yehoshua Matza has written a letter to Finance

Minister Yaakov Neeman demanding that the Treasury allocate an additional NIS 30 million for the AIDS "cocktail" that slows the development of the HIV virus, plus additional funds for 13 other vital drugs.

Neeman has adamantly refused, arguing the Health Ministry should increase efficiency and use the "saved money" to expand the list of medications supplied to members.

Peterburg said the government owes Clalit NIS 300 million and has eroded the value of per-capita payments from health taxes.

Kalansuwa girl diagnosed with rabies

By JUDY SIEGEL

A seven-year-old Kalansuwa girl, is lying unconscious and in very serious condition in Schneider Children's Medical Center for Israel in Petah Tikva.

The girl, whose name was not disclosed at her parents' request, was apparently scratched on the forehead by an unidentified animal two months ago, but neither she nor her family reported the incident.

The girl was brought to the hospital 10 days ago, after being initially examined at Meir Hospital in Kfar Sava. She suffered from fever, vomiting, and loss of consciousness, which are not characteristic symptoms of rabies, but her saliva was tested just in case. On Monday night, the result proved positive.

According to infectious disease expert Prof. Shai Ashkenazi, the parents denied for days that she had any contact with animals. But after finally having to be connected to a respirator and losing consciousness, they recalled that in October, they had noticed a

scratch on her forehead that could have come from an animal.

Less than a year ago, a soldier died of rabies after having been bitten in his sleep by an unidentified animal, apparently a rabid rodent. Since rodents had not previously been known to spread rabies, he was not vaccinated.

There had not been a previous case of rabies in three decades. The Health Ministry quickly went into action, vaccinating 29 staff members at Meir and Schneider Hospitals, as well as the girl's family. There is no cure for rabies, but if the victim is vaccinated in time, there are no ill effects.

Dr. Alex Levinthal, head of the ministry's public health department, said that no country in the world spends so much on rabies vaccinations. Since the soldier's death, the number of reported animal bites and scratches has tripled and a third of the victims are vaccinated.

"We spend NIS 3 million a year on vaccine, and thousands of people suspected of having been bitten or scratched by mammals are given the shots," he said.

Hadassah launches 'Mered' road campaign

By SYBIL EHRLICH

Hadassah-Israel yesterday unveiled its plan, in coordination with Metnua, to fight road accidents.

Called Mered, a Hebrew acronym for "enough murder on the roads" and also meaning "rebellion," the plan includes bumper stickers reminding drivers of their moral commitment to careful, cautious, and courteous driving. Drivers who have signed the commitment will display a yellow ribbon on their car's antenna.

The plan was announced at Hadassah-Israel's annual convention, at a session dealing with mass transit, rail transport, and safety on the roads.

MK Shmaryahu Beo-Tzur (National Religious Party), who helped form the Knesset caucus for mass transit, addressed the convention, pointing out the need for proper rail transport in his hometown of Ra'anana, one of the most clogged areas of the country.

He said that improved rail service would mean fewer cars,

fewer accidents, and greater safety on the roads, a decrease in air pollution, an improvement in drivers' health - caused by a reduction in tension - and preservation of natural resources by reducing noxious emissions.

Israel Railways director-general Amos Uzani pointed out that there is no disagreement on the need for improved railway infrastructure, but with the tiny budget allocated by the government it is impossible to develop the railways further. Reacting to the Mered proposal, Dr. Elinu Richter, head of the Bets Injury Prevention Program at Hebrew University-Hadassah Medical School, said mass media campaigns have been shown to be a waste of money, as they do not prevent injuries. He said signs asking drivers to be careful and courteous are "like signs saying don't get the flu."

He added that the only effective method is to reduce speed limits, especially for trucks, which cause 150 deaths a year, and introduce speed cameras on roads and warning systems inside cars.



Plant native flowers. Renana Weizman, the president's wife, joins supporters of the Council for a Beautiful Israel in planting flowers indigenous to the country in the gardens at Beit Ebanasi yesterday. The council is encouraging the public to plant native flowers as part of the jubilee celebrations. (Dana Horowitz)

Education Ministry urged to remove stereotypes from books

By ARYEH DEAN COHEN

Textbooks that include stereotyped descriptions of Yemenites as "thin and little" or "looking like an Arab" and other similar phenomena should be removed from the nation's schools, the Knesset Education Committee declared yesterday.

The session was called following recent studies which showed stereotyped portrayals of various ethnic communities in school textbooks.

The committee called on teachers, principals and parents to check the textbooks and act against any such stereotypes. It also condemned racism and called on local authorities to stamp out such phenomena, and asked the Education Ministry to widen programs designed to help children get to know classmates from different backgrounds in an effort to reduce such stereotypes.

"In every society, especially in one in which there are many com-

munities, there are stereotypes, and we must constantly fight them," committee chairman MK Emanuel Zissman said. "We must remember that the education system does not necessarily create the stereotypes, but reflects them as they exist in society. Textbooks have lately also helped eliminate stereotypes, but the fact is this isn't enough, and we can only hope that the Values Education

Unit established recently will make efforts toward bringing people together, understanding others and doing away with stereotypes." "We must remember that the things children learn at a young

Poll: 30% of pupils label themselves racists

Thirty percent of high school pupils are prepared to admit they are "racists," and 45% of new immigrants say that term applies to them, according to a study of high school pupils' attitudes on antisemitism and racism.

The study, on "Attitudes on Antisemitism and Racism in Israeli High Schools," included 1,488 pupils in 25 schools. A total of 33% in religious schools and 28% in secular schools were willing to admit they are racists.

"The differences between secular and religious schools were very large regarding matters of racism, attitudes towards Arabs, even on antisemitism," said Nili Keren of the Kibbutz Teachers Seminar, who conducted the survey along with Yair Oron and Gila Zalikowitz of Hebrew University's Center for the Study of Antisemitism. "Those in the religious schools are much more paranoid and certain when it

comes to antisemitism that, for example, the whole world is against us.

"The study itself was on antisemitism and racism, but there were a few questions intended to sharpen their approach to these matters where we found the most serious things," she said. "We gave them 20 incidents from the news and asked them to grade them on a scale of 1-5 as to whether the incident was racist or not. In one case, there were Turkish workers in Hamburg whose home was firebombed by neo-Nazis. This was naturally identified by many of them as a racist incident (87% of religious pupils, 72% of secular). But the burning of a hut housing Arab workers in Or Yehuda got a very low rating; it wasn't considered a racist act (70% of religious pupils, 78% of secular)."

The poll was completed shortly before the Rabin assassination.

Aryeh Dean Cohen

NEWS in brief

Fire destroys third of Negev cotton crop
About a third of the Negev cotton crop, or some five percent of the national crop, was destroyed yesterday in a fire in a warehouse in the Sderot industrial zone. The damage was estimated at some \$5 million. Two thousand tons of cotton were destroyed. *Tim*

Arbel asked to expedite Shapirim bridge probe
MK Ran Cohen (Meretz) yesterday asked State Attorney Edna Arbel to expedite the probe of the 1994 collapse of the Shapirim Bridge over the Tel Aviv-Jerusalem Highway, which caused the deaths of three people. Cohen noted that although more than three-and-a-half years have passed, her office has yet to decide if anyone should be indicted. He suggested that Arbel's office had managed to decide to indict those responsible only four months after the collapse of the pedestrian bridge at the Maccabiah Games, which resulted in the deaths of four Australians, and suggested that the fact that foreigners were involved had something to do with the speed of the decision. *Jerusalem Post Staff*

Lawyers petition to close down jail
The Central Committee of the Lawyers Bar Association yesterday submitted a petition to the High Court of Justice calling for the jail in Jerusalem's Russian Compound to be closed. The petition - which names Internal Security Minister Avigdor Kahalani, Jerusalem Police Chief Cmdr. Yair Yitzhaki and Dep.-Cmdr. Menahem Nidam, the jail's superintendent - said the jail was not fit for humans and harms the dignity of those imprisoned in it. *Tim*

More pupils taking exams with special programs
The number of pupils taking matriculation exams in special programs designed to allow them to make up any missing tests before they begin their army service has increased by some 50 percent, the Education Ministry announced yesterday. Pupils choosing this program can defer their army service in coordination with army officials and may have their service shortened by two months. The program is available to pupils who successfully pass 14 units and are missing exams in between one and three subjects. It aims to ensure that pupils earn their matriculation certificates prior to entering the army, an Education Ministry official said. *Aryeh Dean Cohen*

Hammer: Give pupils bonuses to study high-tech
Education Minister Zevulun Hammer has proposed granting special bonuses to high school pupils who choose to study high-tech subjects in order to help find solutions for the lack of workers in such industries, an Education Ministry spokesman said. Hammer said that 2,400 workers are already needed and some 10,000 would be needed by the end of the decade. This lack of workers will cost high-tech firms some \$200 million this year, and double that next year, he said. *Aryeh Dean Cohen*

Immigrants from Chechnya: Jewish Agency used us

By ARYEH DEAN COHEN

Immigrants from Chechnya yesterday complained before the Knesset Immigration and Absorption Committee that they had been "used" by Jewish Agency officials for fund-raising purposes and that they were living in terrible conditions here.

"Jewish Agency representatives in Chechnya promised us the moon and here they stuck us in absorption centers in embarrassing conditions. Where's the money raised for us in the United States? Why do we have to live under such conditions?" asked Larisa Podrov, an immigrant from Chechnya.

MK Yuri Stern (Yisrael Ba'aliya) said he had been told by some donors to the United Jewish Appeal in the US that had they known the money they raised

would only be used for flights for the Chechnyans, and then they would live in bad conditions, they would not have donated money.

An Absorption Ministry representative said that a total of 507 immigrants had come from Chechnya and had been recognized as war refugees and received rights beyond those normally given to new immigrants. She said that while ministry officials were aware of the difficulties these immigrants faced after arriving with practically nothing, the ministry was limited in what it could do to help.

Jewish Agency representative Shifra Shidlovitzky denied the immigrants' charges, saying, "Instead of praising the Jewish Agency emissaries who frequently risked their lives to bring these immigrants here, they make accusations against them."

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Shahal wants tougher law for incitement

By LIAT COLLINS

On the same day that two MKs of the Left and one of the right received death sentences, the Prime Minister's wife, Mrs. Leah Shahal (Labor) announced a bill which states that incitement is an offense and that a five-year sentence and up to 10 years in prison may be imposed on anyone who incites violence against Jews or Arabs. She said the bill would be presented to the Knesset next week.

Shahal said that politicians in the Knesset should be held responsible for the violence that has erupted in the West Bank. She said that the bill would be presented to the Knesset next week.

Shahal said that the bill would be presented to the Knesset next week. She said that the bill would be presented to the Knesset next week.

The on-line vice president

By RAJIV CHANDRASEKARAN

When President Clinton travels, a black suitcase containing the codes to launch nuclear weapons is always with him.

At Gore's sidekick is a black IBM laptop computer.

Unlike Clinton's suitcase, Gore's ThinkPad 560, which can't launch missiles, is always in use. On Air Force Two. In the limo. In the backstage "holding room" before he gives a speech. Almost any time and place he's got a free minute and "secure" telephone connection, he's checking his electronic mail.

Gore is an E-mail addict, people on his staff say. Every day, he reads through more than a hundred messages and sends out almost as many, sometimes doing it from his residence late into the night.

He's just as psyched about the rest of the Internet. In a recent interview, with Tracy Chapman tunes thumping from the speakers attached to the screen of his office computer, the vice president demonstrated his technological prowess, taking a reporter on a tour of his favorite World Wide Web sites.

"I never use those," he quipped. After dropping in on an investment-related site and one devoted to technology news, Gore showed off several software applications he had downloaded from the global network and configured to work on his machine. One included a horizontal map of the world that sits in the corner of one's screen and shows where it's daytime and where it's dark.

"It's like the clocks they have at the CIA," Gore said proudly. "Except they use a thousand-dollar version that hangs on the wall. I got this one for something like 25 bucks."

Gore has long had a reputation of being steeped in the stellar issues of technology policy. It was he who popularized the term "information superhighway." But



On-line addict Al Gore

(Isaac Harari)

over the last few years Gore has made technology a central part of not just his stump speeches but his own office. For the vice president's staff, clustered in the White House's West Wing and the adjoining Old Executive Office Building, E-mailing has become the primary method of communication—especially with the boss.

The result has been one of political Washington's most atypical workplaces. Junior staffers frequently message Gore directly with questions, cutting through layers of bureaucracy.

"He's the vice president," said Greg Simon, Gore's former chief domestic policy adviser. "You just can't pop in and ask him a question." But you can with E-mail.

At the same time, Gore says he uses E-mail so he won't bother his subordinates.

"I just find [E-mail] to be a much easier way to communicate because you don't have to worry about calling your staff on the telephone at a time when they're in the middle of doing something else or when the number is busy or when they're out eating lunch or ...they

really ought to be devoting their time to a higher priority matter than the one I want to get an answer to," Gore said in a recent interview. "Yet, if I call them they're going to think, 'This is the top priority right now,' and it's really not."

It doesn't always work like that. Simon rigged up his Macintosh computer to sound a special chime whenever new mail from the vice president arrived. "I'd generally respond to it right away," Simon said. "Even if he wasn't on the other end of a phone line, I didn't want to keep him waiting."

WHILE HE exploits the courtesy of E-mail, Gore also understands its subversive nature. Meeting with advisers for a substantive face-to-face conversation generally requires blocking off time on his calendar days in advance.

"With E-mail, he can communicate with anybody on the staff, even the most junior people," said Daniel Pink, Gore's former chief speech writer. "In many ways, he defies the generational divide in the White House."

Gore is known for having proper "Netiquette." He generally

responds to important messages within 24 hours, often sooner, according to aides. In addition to the 100 to 150 messages a day he receives in his private mailbox—sent by White House staffers and close friends outside the compound—he said he gets about 400 a day at a public address. Those messages are read by aides, who sometimes forward particularly thought-provoking ones to him.

Recently, the vice president's E-mail has also aroused interest on Capitol Hill. Because a copy of every message that's sent and received is saved on a computer disk, White House lawyers have had to run over some of those files to congressional investigators probing whether Gore broke campaign finance laws during the 1996 election.

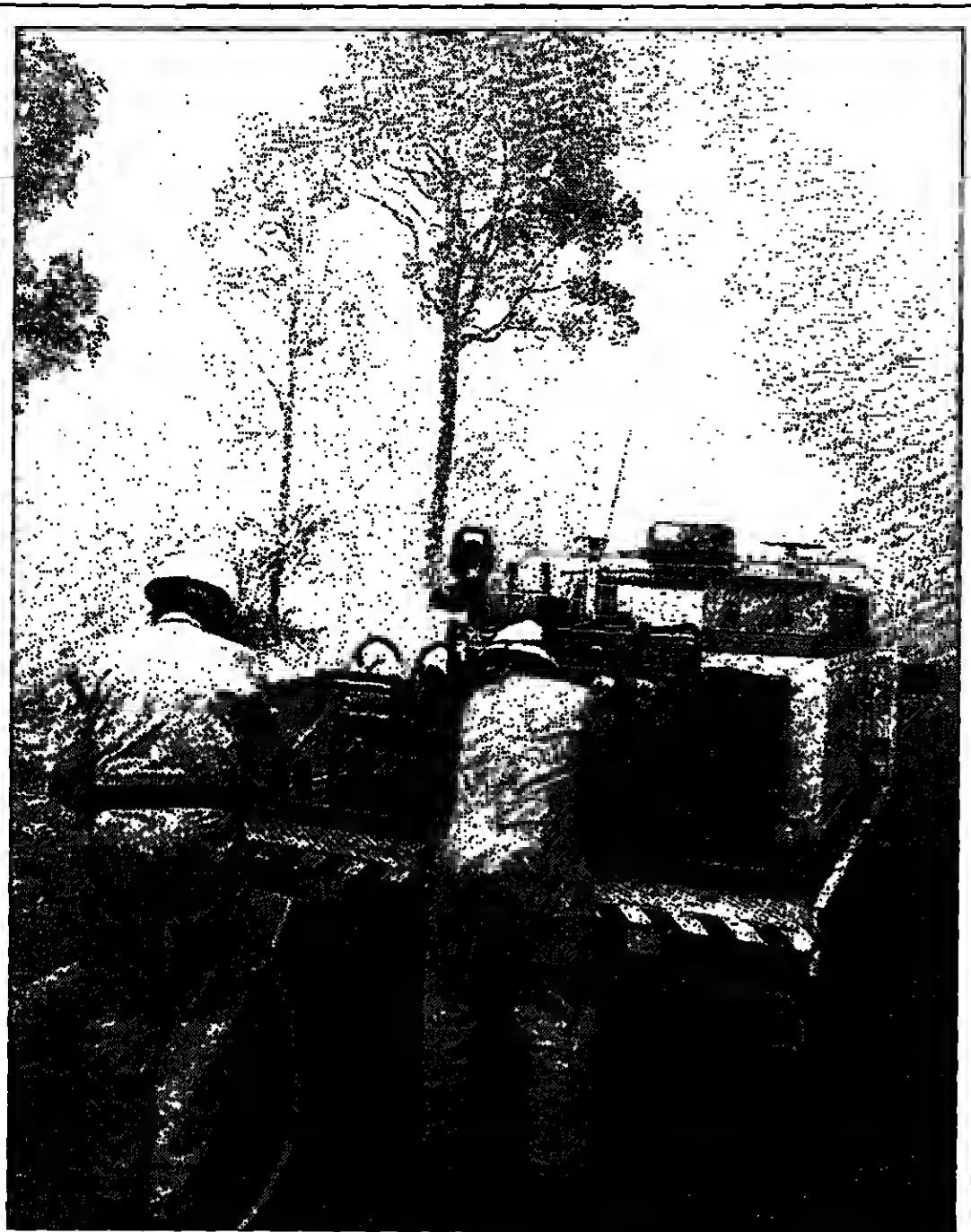
But there are still some people Gore can't reach with e-mail. The most important one is his boss.

President Clinton "doesn't use E-mail very much now, but he plans to start," Gore said. "One of the driving forces that will push him to get on the computer on a regular basis is the fact that Chelsea is going to college in California. I've told him of the joys of communicating with your children off at college by way of E-mail." Does he ever goof off on the Internet in the office?

"Oh, it's almost always relevant," Gore said, laughing. "Dibert would love some of the excuses I put the Web to."

Political analysts say Gore's computer savviness could be a mixed blessing if he runs for president in 2000. On the one hand, it risks perpetuating his stiff image; on the other, it could portray him as young and hip, they say. His understanding of computers also could generate important financial support from the technology industry, they add.

But Gore says he's on the computer because he loves it. "It's fun," he said. "It's really fun." (Washington Post)



Australia under fire

Firemen prepare to fight one of the many bushfires raging on the southern outskirts of Sydney yesterday. Up to 30 homes were destroyed, and in a separate blaze 100 km northwest of Sydney, two firefighters were killed. Officials say over 400 bushfires fueled by strong winds and high summer temperatures were burning in Australia's eastern seaboard. (AP)

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120 countries to sign land mine pact today

Israel won't sign treaty, cites security situation

By JAY BUSHINSKY and news agencies

Some of the highest land mine users and producers will be conspicuous by their absence in Ottawa when delegates from some 120 countries sign a ban on anti-personnel land mines.

The US, China, and Russia are not signing the treaty in Ottawa. Neither is Israel.

A senior Foreign Ministry official said yesterday Israel cannot sign the treaty because of its political and security situation. On the other hand, he stressed that Israel's anti-personnel mines are placed in frontier zones only, and not in populated areas, as in other parts of the world.

By the same token, he said, Israel's use of land mines is strictly in adherence with interna-

tional agreements on conventional weapons, meaning that minefields are labeled as such.

Nonetheless the three-day ceremony that started yesterday represents a huge triumph for the coalition that has been seeking a ban.

"There's a lot of celebration to this thing," said Canadian Foreign Minister Lloyd Axworthy, as he welcomed Nobel Peace Prize winner Jody Williams to the conference venue late Monday.

Williams shared the prize with her organization, the International Campaign to Ban Land Mines.

The movement began in the early 1990s, and gathered momentum a year ago when Axworthy challenged other nations to meet in Ottawa this month to sign a treaty and draft plans for removing the millions

of mines threatening civilians around the world.

The initial group, a dozen or so countries prodded by hundreds of non-governmental organizations, had grown to 89 nations by the time a draft treaty was initiated in Norway in September.

After the Nobel Peace Prize was awarded to Williams and her organization in October, more countries came on board.

Conference organizers said 121 nations are now expected to sign today and tomorrow.

"Yeah, Canada," said Williams, who was sprayed with champagne as she arrived. "Not only did they issue the challenge, but they openly decided to work with non-governmental organizations in partnership."

The treaty bans the stockpile, export, production, and use of

anti-personnel mines. It also sets up timetables for de-mining.

Experts estimated there are between 60 million and 120 million active land mines scattered around the globe. The International Red Cross estimates 800 people are killed and 1,200 maimed by mines every month.

De-mining is a slow and dangerous hands-on job that costs up to \$1,000 per mine. How to meet that cost will be discussed at a series of meetings this week on the sidelines of the signing ceremony.

Skeptics have noted that most countries which use land mines on a large scale aren't ready to sign the treaty. But the ban's proponents say their efforts have had an impact on some of these nations - Russia has agreed to halt exports of mines, and the US is expanding its de-mining operations.

Mine maker goes bankrupt

By DANIEL J. WAKIN

CASTENEDOLO, Italy (AP) - Drive down a heavily potholed road through the mists of the northern Italian flatlands, pass a dog training center, and you arrive at a place that once produced millions of land mines a year.

Now, computer screens sit dark in empty offices. Cobwebs and plastic sheeting cover assembly-line machines. A few workers toss threaded plastic rings, fuse holders, and orange tabs into boxes for eventual hand-over to the government required under a recent ban on mines passed by parliament.

Despite several efforts to convert the assembly lines of Valsella Meccanotecnica SpA for civilian products, the company is in bankruptcy proceedings, in large part due to a 1994 Italian moratorium on the production of anti-personnel mines.

The company's 52 remaining workers

haven't been paid since July and a court-appointed administrator is handling its affairs. But they have one more chance.

A small Italian engineering venture, Electric Motive Power Group, is considering acquiring Valsella's plant to make electric buses. Local officials and Valsella's owners are waiting for an offer.

If it doesn't come, administrator Ferruccio Barbi said he will pull the plug.

The anti-mine campaign had placed great hopes that Valsella could successfully convert to civilian production in this prosperous town of 8,600 people in Italy's industrial heartland.

Now the workers wait to hear from EMP. One of the firm's partners, Paolo Fusari, said the chances are 50-50 the project will go forward.

Santia Bianchini, Castenedolo's deputy mayor and an anti-mine activist, is not confident. With Valsella's \$8.5 million debt, and oo-

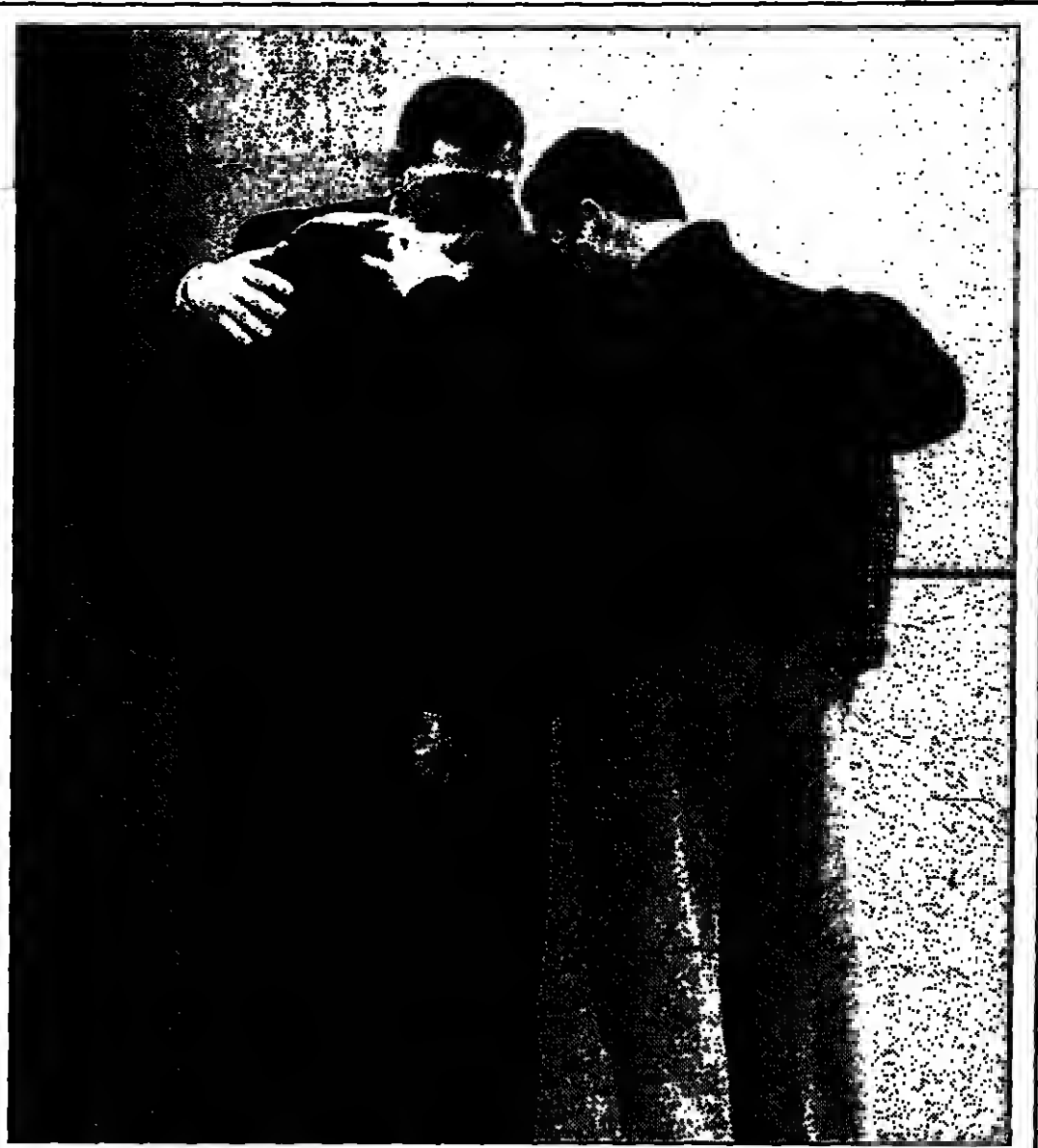
sign of subsidies from the government, she says the plan doesn't look feasible.

The arms industry made the fortunes of Castenedolo and its surroundings. Mine production boomed in the 1980s, with millions of the weapons making their way to Iran and Iraq in their 1980-88 war and to other countries.

Valsella's revenues shot up tenfold to around \$60 million a year. It gave work to about 200 people, including many in small businesses supplying parts and services.

Valsella and other mine-makers turned Italy into one of the world's leading mine producers. That attracted the attention of human rights groups, which criticized Italy for lax enforcement of export laws. The government cracked down, limiting exports.

When Italy declared a moratorium on the production of anti-personnel mines in 1994, sales plummeted and debts mounted.



Praying for strength

Ben Strong (left), a student at Heath High School in West Paducah, Kentucky, prays with his father, Rev. Bobby Strong (right), outside the school before entering yesterday. Ben is credited with stepping in and stopping a 14-year-old freshman boy who opened fire during Ben's prayer group meeting, killing three students and injuring five others on Monday. (AP)

Annan seeks bigger Iraqi oil-sales

By ROBERT H. REID

UNITED NATIONS (AP) - Secretary-General Kofi Annan urged the Security Council on Monday to consider raising the amount of oil revenue Iraq can spend for food and medicine, saying current levels have done little to ease the suffering of ordinary Iraqis.

But Annan backed off from recommending a specific increase in the amount of oil Iraq can export under the year-old oil-for-food program. UN officials said they urged Annan to double the figure, but he backed off at the request of the US.

"I regret to report... the population of Iraq continues to face a serious nutritional and health situation and there is an urgent need to contain the risk of a further deterioration," Annan said in a report to the council.

He said the current food ration, "even if it is distributed completely and in a timely manner, cannot address the chronic malnutrition and energy deficiency in adults as well as children."

"Given the scale of urgent humanitarian requirements in Iraq, the Security Council may wish to re-examine the adequacy of the revenues... and to consider the possibility of increasing those revenues to meet Iraq's priority humanitarian requirements," Annan wrote.

Diplomats said the Security Council would probably take up the report today. One diplomat, speaking on condition of anonymity, said it could take more than a month to decide whether to increase the oil quota and if so by how much.

The 15-member council must decide this week whether to renew the oil-for-food program, which expires tomorrow.

The Clinton administration has said it has no objections to studying ways to improve the program, under which Iraq can sell \$2.14 billion in oil every six months. Two-thirds of the revenue goes to buy food, medicine and other humanitarian goods.

The rest pays reparations to Kuwaiti victims of the Gulf War

and to finance UN weapons inspections in Iraq. One option could be to maintain current export levels but spend more for food and medicine.

In Baghdad, Iraqi Foreign Minister Mohammed Said Sahhaf said the UN was quick to transfer funds to war reparations and weapons monitoring but slow to approve purchases of humanitarian goods.

Sahhaf told a news conference broadcast by CNN that his government wants "some kind of simultaneity or parallelism" in the money transfers.

The UN Children's Fund reported last week that about 960,000 Iraqi children under age five suffer from malnutrition.

Annan's report said the problem also affects all other segments of Iraqi society.

For example, Annan said one-quarter of Iraqi men and women under 26 are malnourished. He said the Security Council also should review the "nutritional value" of the food provided to Iraqis.

Trophy hunters try breaking into Diana's island grave

LONDON (Reuters) - Trophy hunters obsessed with Princess Diana have tried to break into the grounds of her family's home in a bid to reach her island grave, the estate manager said yesterday.

David Horton-Fawkes told reporters that several people had been caught scaling the walls of Althorp, in rural central England.

"There have been several attempts to get over the wall and get on to the island... There are sick people out there who want to get the brass plates off the top of the coffin," he said.

Diana died in a car crash in Paris in August in the company of her companion Dodi Fayed. She was buried privately after a ceremonial funeral which capped an unprecedented week-long national outpouring of grief.

Horton-Fawkes said £250,000 had been spent on security at Althorp since Diana was buried on a tiny island in the center of an ornamental lake.

Earl Charles Spencer, Diana's brother - who on Monday ended acrimonious and highly publicized divorce proceedings in South Africa - is to open the grounds to the public for two months next summer.

About 3,000 people a day are expected to visit the stately home where Diana spent her childhood.

Spencer has drawn up plans for a two meter high iron fence decorated with heart motifs to be erected around the lake. It will prevent sightseers reaching the grave.



Painful memories

South African state chief pathologist Patricia Klepp (right) explains the wounds she found on slain teen activist Stompe Seipel at the Truth and Reconciliation Commission hearing in Johannesburg yesterday. Klepp, who conducted Seipel's postmortem exam, said he was stabbed in the neck three times but had not been slaughtered like a sheep, as claimed by Jerry Richardson, the former coach of the Mandela United Football Club. (AP)

Expats want Italy at Security Council

By ROBERT H. REID

UNITED NATIONS (AP) - Italian-American organizations called Monday for the US to support Italy for permanent membership on the Security Council.

But the sidewalk press conference, in front of the US Mission to the UN, was eclipsed by the unexpected arrival of an aide to Nation of Islam leader Louis Farrakhan, who is heading to Iraq as part of a world tour.

As television cameras turned on the Nation of Islam delegation, Congressman William Pascrell read a statement saying the 22 million Italian-Americans "are not going to back off insisting that Italy be a permanent member of the Security Council."

The delegation, representing 36 Italian-American groups, was to present US Ambassador Bill

Richardson with a petition signed by 50,000 people calling on President Bill Clinton's administration to support an Italian seat.

The US has proposed reorganizing the 15-member council to add five new permanent members: Germany, Japan, and one each from Latin America, Asia, and Africa. The General Assembly is expected to debate the issue tomorrow.

But the Italian government strongly opposes any reorganization that leaves Italy without any chance for a permanent seat.

The US proposal stands little chance of winning approval this

year. For one thing, there are vast differences within different regions on which country should receive the new regional seat.

Also, many developing countries, which form the majority in the 185-member General Assembly, want to prevent newcomers from having the veto power enjoyed by the current permanent members: the US, Britain, France, Russia, and China.

Taking no chances, the Italian government has mounted a strong campaign to block the US plan, which National Italian-American Coordinating Association has denounced as an

"insult" to Americans of Italian descent.

Martin Picillo, president of the Conference of Major Italian-American Organizations, read a statement accusing Richardson of responding to the Italian-American campaign with "an increased effort... to embarrass Italy and a complete failure to express anything more than

contempt at our effort."

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Inbal arts center cultivates ethnic diversity

By HELEN KAYE

Last March, Haim Shiran resuscitated the moribund Inbal Dance Theater and reinvented it as the multidisciplinary Ethnic Arts Center, Inbal. Few people thought he would succeed, but with Inbal as its axis, EACI has flourished.

"We have gone from eight to about 16 projects per month," said Shiran last week at the press conference introducing EACI's winter season. "That doesn't include special, like last summer's ethnic music project and the community project which celebrates the culture of Jewish communities from countries such as Libya or Persia. Right now we're working on Turkey for next June."

EACI also had a varied program of dance, music, theater and literature which drew, and continues to draw, from Israel's rich multicultural, multiethnic mix of citizens. The center, says Shiran happily, "is going as I envisaged it would, and I'm also realizing my dream of helping all kinds of small groups, Jewish and Arab, which wouldn't otherwise get exposure."

The winter season is a continuation of the format. There are performances by established groups such as Shlomo Bar and his wonderful Habreira Hativit ensemble (December); singer Anaf Morkos with songs from her new album (January); flamenco dancer Neta Shizaf and her company (December); and the Arab Theater in Israel with Anton Shammas's beautifully acted *Wash Your Face Moon*.

But there are also groups who are new or regional, such as Shfarim's El-Baat singers of Arabic musical literature (January), Kurdish music with Ilana Ily and Jihlin (January), the wonderfully inventive Evc's Daughters klezmer quartet (December), classical Indian

dance with Osnat Elkahir, who has just come home after 10 years of study in India (January), the Esketa Ethiopian Dance Theater Workshop from Haifa (January), and performances of plays by Kedem, the professional community-oriented theater company led by playwright/director Rafael Aharon.

Naturally, Inbal Dance continues to document, recreate and present the great dances by Inbal Dance theater founder Sara Levi-Tanai, as well as new works influenced by her such as *Sejero* by artistic director Ilana Cohen.

And "we are working on our own project," says Shiran, whose aim is that EACI should ultimately produce its own programs rather than import them. The project is *Where Is Sa'adio?*, a drama centered around the kidnapping of Yemenite children, written and directed by Aharon, which premieres in February.

After a prize-studded career as an actor in his native France, Shiran immigrated in 1965 and was one of the founders of ETV here, where he worked as a director until he took over EACI last year. He also found time for advanced studies in New York, where he organized a Sephardi Film Festival in 1989, '92 and '94.

He's a smiling, energetic, multi-faceted man who obviously revels in what he's doing at EACI, finding an unending treasure trove in our multicultural heritage. His policies are always inclusive, and right now he has a subscription drive going among Jaffa's Arab residents to bring them to EACI.

The EACI budget is NIS 3.8 million, of which NIS 2.5 million comes from the Arts and Culture Authority, NIS 300,000 from the Tel Aviv Municipality and the rest is earned income. "We have gone from zero to 25% earned income in one year," says Shiran triumphantly.



Klezmer quartet Eve's Daughters is only one of the many acts which will perform under the aegis of Ethnic Arts Center, Inbal in the coming months.

Verdi's love of the bard

By MICHAEL AJZENSTADT

Throughout his long and fruitful career, Giuseppe Verdi was infatuated with Shakespeare. Verdi wanted to compose *King Lear*, a life-long dream he did not fulfill. However, after a rather long operatic hiatus following the premiere of *Aida* in 1871, Verdi returned to opera 16 years later, writing two Shakespeare operas. His final work, *Falstaff*, uses as its source and inspiration the character of Sir John Falstaff as he appears in both *The Merry Wives of Windsor* and *Henry IV*. But before *Falstaff*, he wrote *Otello* which, for many, is his most powerful, evocative and dramatic work.

One reason for *Otello's* success is the collaboration between Verdi and composer Arrigo Boito, who wrote the libretto. Boito condensed the tragedy about the Moor from Venice into a tauter, simpler work.

Verdi and Boito achieved a new kind of music drama, an opera without the customary "numbers" (arias, duets, trios) which allow for audience applause. *Otello* is sung through, with literally no place to applaud. The music drama has become larger than the convention, and this new music drama has become the convention itself.

Otello is one of the most demanding operas in the repertoire. Verdi pampered his singers with some of his greatest music: *Otello's* entrance, *Iago's* credo of evil, the willow song, the Ave Maria Desdemona sings on her deathbed, and her purified and refined love duet with *Otello* at the conclusion of Act I.

In the opera Desdemona is much more pure in appearance and character than in the play. And Verdi's *Iago* is even more diabolical than Shakespeare's. As for *Otello* himself, Verdi created one of the most powerful roles ever seen on the opera stage—a passionate, gentle lover turned into a monster ruled by uncontrollable jealousy.

The IPO presented Verdi's *Otello* more than two decades ago in a staged production conducted by Zubin Mehta, with extraordinary German baritone Siegmund Niemsgeem as *Iago*.

Now the IPO returns to Verdi's ultimate human tragedy in a series of concert performances led by Antonio Pappano, who has already led the IPO in exciting concert versions of *Tosca* and *Rigoletto*.

The concert performances of *Otello* begin in Tel Aviv's Mann Auditorium tomorrow night, with five more performances in Haifa and Tel Aviv through December 17.

The sisters who won't quit

By HELEN KAYE

The Geshen Theater's upcoming production of Chekhov's *The Three Sisters* is a first for director Yevgeny Arye. It's the first time, to quote him, that he's dared to direct a Chekhov play and he chose *The Three Sisters* because it's a millennial play, staged when Russian society was on the eve of cataclysmic change, when "people had ideologies that seem naive to us today, and here too you can find the same sort of idealistic people."

Chekhov's play, written in 1900, tells the story of the Prozorov sisters and their brother Andrei (Israel Demidov). They live in a small provincial town where their father, who has been dead a year, was the commanding officer of the local garrison. They dream of returning to Moscow, but nearly four years go by and they don't leave. They never will, either, but they'll go on just the same, hoping.

Starting as an all-Russian theater in 1991, Geshen has been steadily integrating Israeli-born actors into what has been described as one of the six best theater companies in the world. So in this *Three Sisters* they include Dorit Lev-Ari (in her third season with the company), who plays Natasha, Andrei's vulgar and insensitive wife; Avshalom Pollak as Baron Tusenbach, who loves Irina; and



Geshen's 'Three Sisters': (from left) Efi Ben-Zur (Irina), Natalya Wolitvich-Manor (Olga) and Yevgenia Dodina (Masha)

Amnon Wolf as Solonoi, the man who kills him in a duel.

"In a Chekhov play there's tragedy, comedy and even farce," says Arye. "That's what we're trying to achieve. This

isn't a realistic play, it's a thoroughly modern play."

The Three Sisters opens at the Geshen Theater in Jaffa on Saturday.

Whatever happened to the Osmonds?

By JOHN ROGERS

When Jimmy Osmond came to the town of Branson, Missouri a half-dozen years ago, he arrived as a real estate developer, not a performer. Then he saw a little theater in the Ozarks for sale.

"I called up my brothers," he says in a voice ringing with the kind of good-natured enthusiasm that seems to be an Osmond family trait. "And I said, 'Hey guys, let's dust off the cobwebs, and instead of doing conventions all the time, let's do two shows a day, six days a week, in a little theater in Branson.'" Six years later, 2 million people have found their way to that little theater, and the Osmond Brothers are about to enter their 40th year in show business.

As he reflected on the turns his career has taken in a recent phone interview, the performer, who at age 3 used to captivate audiences by bolting on stage to join his older siblings in song, laughed often as he recalled the family's strange road to Branson.

"I have a company I bought from my dad years ago, Osmond Real Estate Development," he said. "When I came out here, I found that developing was my kind of thing, and I ended up finding this theater involved in bankruptcy." His brothers, who were tiring of the road, had cut back on performing, and he persuaded them to give Branson a try. It was 12 shows a week, but they could stay in one place.

"I had no idea what I was doing," he admits now. "We opened our doors in 30 days, and we didn't have one ticket sold. We didn't know what to expect. Then, that night, 800 people walked up to the box office." Earlier this year, the two-millionth customer arrived, and Osmond, the youngest of nine siblings, seven of whom perform, figures he's found a permanent stage in Branson.

"Once in a while you do get burned out," he says of the season that runs from March through December.

It's hard to picture Osmond as the burnout type. He punctuates his sentences with words like "neat" and "fun," and in one case "yuck" when acknowledging he's 34 years old now. When not on stage he runs the Osmond Family Theater ("We've gotten down and scrubbed the toilets and done everything you can think of in that theater"). He runs his real estate business. And he has promoted concerts for Michael Jackson and Whitney Houston.

More recently, he's been working with his family on a 40th anniversary documentary. It is to hit television next fall and take the Osmonds from the days when Jay, Merrill, Wayne and Alan were singing barbershop harmonies in Disneyland up to the present. He's also busy putting together a



Donny (left) and Alan Osmond enjoyed their heyday in the '70s. Here they wave to fans at London's Heathrow airport in 1973.

(File photo/United Press International)

new version of Andrew Lloyd Webber's "Music of the Night" that will open at the Osmond Family Theater in March and run twice a day through December.

"It's almost like an Andrew Lloyd Webber sampler show," he says. "It will have a little bit of *Phantom of the Opera*, *Cats*, *Evita*, *Starlight Express* and other great productions."

Donny, he says proudly, set box-office records when he starred in Lloyd Webber's *Joseph and the*

Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat for five years.

"Our careers have just been so crazy. We've done so many different things," Jimmy Osmond says. "We've had rock 'n' roll hits; we've done country, pop, even some barbershop singing. And now we're going into this. And having it be after 40 years, well it's kind of neat to reinvent yourself again and do something totally different that allows yourself to stretch. It's kind of fun." (AP)

Bernstein's mystical journey

CLASSIC DISCS

As the Leonard Bernstein prize will be awarded this evening in Jerusalem, it is timely to remember Bernstein through several of his great recordings.

A most perfect, touching and complete recording of the Mozart *Requiem* is that of Leonard Bernstein conducting the choir and symphony orchestra of the Bavarian Broadcasting Authority (Deutsche Grammophon 427 353-2). In 1989 Bernstein conducted Mozart's final and incomplete opus with the Munich forces and a quartet of four young first-rate singers: Maric McLaughlin, Maria Ewing, Jerry Hadley and Cornelius Hauptman—another testimony to the maestro's sincere belief in the importance of young musicians.

I cherish the Mozart *Requiem* because it combines, in one hour, the entire gamut of human emotions from pain to elation, reverence to fear. Many conductors have interpreted the music in a variety of ways. Bernstein does not come to this performance with any interpre-

tation. Rather, he comes as himself, a great musician and a gentle, simple human being, and he just immerses himself in the music. He does not conduct the orchestra and choir, he takes them with him on a mystical journey to a higher plateau, a plateau which transcends description. You feel as if you were at one with the music from beginning to end, as if the composer has blessed the performers from above with his magical touch.

This is not the place to go into minute details about the excellence of this performance. Suffice it to say that each of the movements works as a mini-masterpiece and that the overall performance simply seizes you and never lets go. It is not often that one sheds tears listening to a recording. When I heard this disc, I knew I could die and go directly to heaven. Because this is the ultimate human experience.

ANOTHER great Bernstein album is *Bernstein Conducts Stravinsky* (Deutsche Grammophon 445 538-2). This is a two-for-the price of one disc album in which Bernstein conducts the IPO in six Stravinsky compositions recorded between 1983-85 in memorable live concerts at the Mann Auditorium. Stravinsky was always close to

Bernstein, and one can easily trace his influences in Bernstein's own music. The ballet music in *West Side Story*, for example, has its roots in various Stravinsky ballets.

In these concerts, I vividly recall how the maestro literally danced through *The Firebird Suite*, which he loved so dearly. On disc, what is captured is the dramatic aspect of these ballets, together with the composer's genius orchestration. *The Firebird* is still as magical as I remember. *Le sacre du printemps* (*The Rite of Spring*) is powerful and evocative as it should be, the *Scenes de ballet* and the *Symphony* in three movements are impressive as well, but the real highlight for me is *Petrouchka*, in which the drama and story of the ballet really come to life through Bernstein's impassioned conducting.

Bernstein's association with the IPO has been a long and fruitful one and included many performances and recordings of his own symphonies as well. Here the orchestra is in its best form, delving deep into the music, with the maestro leading them with true spirit, style and panache. It is a very good performance of first-rate ballet music which is just as impressive in symphonic form. And with two discs for the price of one, this truly is a valuable acquisition.

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A generous redeployment

The cabinet's next-peace-step decision on Sunday has been widely dismissed as meaningless or worse, a view fed by the fact that it passed unanimously, with the support of the cabinet's right-wing. Evidently, Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu succeeded in constructing the perfect Rorschach test, in which the moderates and right-wingers were able to see what they wanted.

But when ministers of widely opposing views vote for the same amorphous decision, it begs the question who is fooling whom? If anything, this vote for the second redeployment in principle could give the right-wing cover to vote against any specific proposal in practice. After all, it is always possible to say that this or that provision has not been fully complied with by the other side, and to back out of the agreement.

There is, however, more significance to the decision than meets the eye.

First of all, it signified on the entire cabinet to the principle of carrying out a further redeployment if the Palestinians fulfill their obligations under the Oslo Accords. Though such a stance might be taken for granted at this point, it is the first time that some of the ministers have roped themselves into the Oslo framework in such a direct way.

Second, the principle of reciprocity, which seemed to have quietly died after starring so prominently in the Hebron Accord, has now been revived and placed center stage. This was the basic glue behind the unanimous vote: Industry and Trade Minister Natan Sharansky and right-wingers such as Justice Minister Tzahi Hanegbi and Communications Minister Limor Livnat can agree that Israel must not unilaterally abide by Oslo, and that now is the time to insist on reciprocity.

Third, by deciding to "take the necessary steps to continue the existence and strengthening of settlements in Judea and Samaria," the cabinet has all but nixed the deal that has been in the works for some time, openly canceling the second redeployment in exchange for a "time out" in settlement expansion. The fact that the government is moving ahead with the second redeployment is evidence that an attempt at that deal has been abandoned for now, though perhaps it could be revived in the context of the third redeployment.

Fourth, the government finally acceded to the principle, long advocated by Sharansky, that Israel must not withdraw from more territory without first deciding on its strategy toward a final-status agreement. Even more importantly, the cabinet depurized a small committee to draw up such a master "map of interests" with just the critical mass to push it through the rest of the cabinet. Netanyahu, Foreign Minister David Levy, Defense Minister Yitzhak Mordechai, and National Infrastructure Minister Ariel Sharon.

This sales team, whose first pitch is today, will have its work cut out for it in persuading the government to agree to any further territorial withdrawals. So far, the Palestinians have given the right-wing ample reason not to be satisfied.

The Palestinians have almost completely ignored the short list of their commitments under the Hebron Accord, each of which were simply reiterations of unfulfilled commitments under Oslo itself.

The concept of reciprocity must not be used as a tactic for Israel to avoid fulfilling its obligations under Oslo, but neither should Israel move ahead while commitments signed by the Palestinians and guaranteed by the United States are ignored as if they never existed.

By conditioning the redeployment on reciprocity, the cabinet decision attempted to throw the ball into the Palestinians' court. For this to work, however, the government must decide on a larger, "higher quality" than expected second redeployment. It is fine to demand that the Palestinians live up to their unfulfilled commitments, but unrealistic to expect them to do so if Israel does not fulfill its obligations unambiguously in return.

Rather than undermining Israel's position in final-status talks, as is feared by the Right, a "generous" redeployment could take pressure off Israel, give weight to its call to begin those talks immediately, and start it off on a stronger footing when they begin.

Since the election of the Netanyahu government, both Israel and the Palestinians have entered into a cycle of entrenchment born largely of mistrust. An Israeli offer of a more generous than expected redeployment, with reasonable conditions, could go a long way in restarting the process in a way that is in the interest of both sides.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

ONE SATISFIED CUSTOMER

Sir, - Happily for us all, Bezeq employs some people who have a better appreciation of service, courtesy and goodwill than the less than scrupulously honest management.

I needed an ISDN line in a hurry and phoned the appropriate section. The sales manager, Allegra Illuz, said she would mail me the necessary information and application form. I suggested that, to save time, I would go to the Bezeq main office in Givat Shaul, easily accessible from my home, to get the material. But because she replied that she works out of the company's Ramat Eshkol office and not Givat Shaul, I said that I wouldn't

bother and would she asked her to proceed with mailing me the material. The felicitously named Allegra then said, "Wait a minute. I live in Mevasseret [which is even closer to me than Givat Shaul]. I'll take the forms home this evening and you can pick them up when convenient."

She did and I did. Thanks to Allegra's thoughtfulness, initiative and obligingness, Bezeq now has at least one satisfied customer.

N.D. GROSS

Beit Zayit.

FOOLS OF THEMSELVES

Sir, - For quite some time, the disloyal opposition has been predicting and demanding an early resignation of our democratically elected prime minister, Benjamin Netanyahu. I wonder if at the end of Netanyahu's full term of office these very same critics will admit they they have made fools of themselves and if the public will remember this at the next election.

MAISH RUBIN

Beersheba.

REFRESHING REMINDER

Sir, - It was refreshing to read the opinion article of Chaim Seiden, "Netanyahu is right" (November 25) in the spot too often populated by leftists, namely Abba Eban and Yossi Beilin.

The article reminds your readership that the majority of Israeli Jews voted to reject the program pursued by the Left, especially the Oslo Accords and the inevitable Palestinian state of the Left.

GERALD KATZ

Haifa.

EVANGELICAL SUPPORT

Sir, - You recently reported that Evangelical Christians are now among the leading donors to the United Jewish Appeal ("Evangelical Christians supply major source of UJA donations" - November 13). That news comes as no surprise to those of us who have been working together with Evangelical Christians in pro-Israel information campaigns on Capitol Hill and elsewhere.

Their passion for the Jewish state is deep, heartfelt, and abiding; their commitment to helping the Jewish state does not waver even if they disagree with a particular policy of a particular Israeli government. Contrast that with the behavior of many American Jewish liberals, whose support for Israel seems to be conditional on whether or not the government's policies suit their narrow religious or political preferences.

Some Israeli leaders seem to be allowing their policies to be shaped, in part, by fear that they will be criticized by American Jewish liberals. While a handful of vocal Jewish liberals may indeed howl in protest if Israel defends itself, or stands up for its rights, Israel's leaders need to remember that they will continue to have the full backing of the much more numerous, and influential, Evangelical Christian community.

HERBERT ZWEIBON, Chairman, American For a Safe Israel

New York.

FROM OUR ARCHIVES

50 years ago: On December 3, 1947, *The Palestine Post* reported that the three-day Arab strike in protest against Partition began with a widespread arson, bloodshed and rioting. The total dead were five Jews, six were seriously injured and almost 30 hurt.

For the first time the Hagana came out openly in defense of Jewish lives and property in Jerusalem where 16 of its members were arrested. Curfew was imposed on Arab parts of Jerusalem after a mob of Arab hoodlums broke into Princess Mary Avenue, where the first casualties occurred. In full view of British police they smashed windows, looted shops, and stabbed a number of people,

including the prominent journalist Mr. Asher Lazar of *Ha'aretz*. Much later a line of police, emerging from their Russian Compound headquarters, edged the mob back, but took no forceful action. Retreating the mob burst into the textile and trade shops in the Commercial Center which it eventually set on fire.

In Jaffa, at the Tel Aviv border barricades four Jews and two Arabs were killed. A convoy system was reintroduced on roads. Police armored cars escorted convoys of cars and buses traveling between Jerusalem and Tel Aviv. In Haifa Jews started leaving Arab quarters. They said they had been advised to do so by their Arab neighbors.

In New York the Americans for Hagana (Defense) called on the US to supply arms to the Hagana.

25 years ago: On December 3, 1972, *The Jerusalem Post* reported that the air links with the outside world were restored after an almost three-day-long suspension. But 20,000 phones in the Dan Region were silenced by technicians' strike.

Egypt announced that it would not accept a partial settlement and "will not hesitate to wage a battle of liberation."

The Jewish settlement of Peki'in village in Upper Galilee was resumed by a group of American yeshiva students.

Alexander Zivelli



Diplomatic code words

As if to prove once again that politics, not business, is still the main protagonist at the annual Middle East economic conference, the conference in Doha ended on a low note, with a politically slanted communiqué calling for "land for peace."

That the Europeans, given their record, supported the above phrasing didn't surprise anyone - but that the US, for the first time, didn't oppose it, was more unsettling.

Through the American action may, perhaps, be seen as part of the effort to garner Arab support against Iraq (an effort which failed, by the way) - it could, unfortunately, also have a detrimental impact on the prospects of Arab-Israeli peace. Experience shows that whenever there was a perception of American pressure on Israel, Arab attitudes in the peace process became more intransigent. This is what happened, for instance, a few years ago when the fierce controversy between Washington and Jerusalem over the loan guarantees led to a hardening of the Arabs' stance in the budding peace process.

In diplomacy and politics there often exist code words which, though they don't say so literally, are usually understood to have a specific meaning. Thus, "land for peace" doesn't connote "territorial compromise," as some may assume, but all the land for all the people (elicited from the late Moshe Dayan the sardonic comment "I know what is meant by a bit of land - I don't know what they mean by a bit of peace").

It is rather a mystery where and when the distorted equation of "land for peace" was actually born. It was certainly never part of the 1978 Camp David accords which had started the peace process, nor did it officially figure in the 1991 Madrid peace conference. In his speech to the conference, former president Bush spoke about "territorial compromise," never using the "land for peace" phrasing. Nor did the "letter of assurances" which the US peace team headed by Dennis Ross had worked out with Israel prior to the conference include any mention of it.

True, in speech made after the Gulf War, Bush did mention "the principle of territory for peace" (as did James Baker in a letter to the Palestinians in October, 1991) - but this was clearly coupled with UN Security Council Resolution 242 - which had always been interpreted by the US as not requiring from Israel total withdrawals - certainly not such which contravened another central pillar of 242 - namely security! President Johnson had specifically stated at the time: "It is clear... that a return to the situation of June 4, 1967 (i.e. the eve of the Arab

ZALMAN SHOVAL

attack on Israel) will not bring peace. There must be secure and there must be recognized borders, and Arthur Goldberg, a former US ambassador to the UN later even told president Carter that Resolution 242 was "incompatible" with Israel returning to her former frontiers.

The Arabs, supported only by the Soviet bloc and France, of course, never did accept the majority interpretation of Resolution 242, preferring to see

Mistakes, which have put a temporary damper on things, have been made on both sides and Israel and the US should now make a new effort to rectify them

it as an injunction to Israel to return all the way to its previous vulnerable borders. Realizing, however, that this was not what the resolution said, they preferred to talk about "land for peace," implying that total peace meant total withdrawals - a position which their diplomats have repeated ad nauseum ever since.

ALTHOUGH morality doesn't often play a pivotal role in politics or diplomacy, one could also reflect upon the morality of the slogan "land for peace." After all, Israel didn't acquire the territories in question - the Golan, the "West Bank" and Gaza and, of course, Siala) in an aggressive war against her neighbors; it was Israel which was the victim of aggression - luckily turning the tables on the aggressors and taking hold of the areas from which the attacks were launched (for some reason, the rule applied to Iraq in the Gulf War, i.e. that it shouldn't be rewarded for its aggression against Kuwait - was never applied when the victim of aggression was Israel).

This historical reminder may be considered irrelevant or at least redundant, now that the parties are engaged in a peace process - tottering as it is - but only a very irresponsible Israeli government would agree to return to the strategically untenable situation which had made aggression possible in the first place - and could do so again in the future.

President Reagan's comment that before the Six Day War "Israel was all of eight miles

wide" and that "it should never be forced to go back to that situation" has not lost its validity in the unfortunately still very volatile old Middle East. It is interesting that, of all people, former prime minister Shimon Peres seems to have recognized this - when he indicated that the Doha communiqué mentioning "land for peace" was unwise, and that he didn't think this formula to be feasible. "Land is tangible," he said - "peace is a promise."

Former US Secretary of State Henry Kissinger has stated that America should now adopt a new policy, rather than repeating worn out slogans which have clearly been rejected by a majority of Israelis. Indeed, after last year's Israeli elections it had seemed that the Clinton administration and the new Israeli government would attempt to reach understandings with regards to the continuation of the peace process and the future permanent status between Israel and the Palestinians, taking into account the new realities created by the disappointments of Oslo on the one hand, and the ideas of the Netanyahu government on the other hand. This hasn't happened, at least not yet.

Mistakes, which have put a temporary damper on things, have been made on both sides and Israel and the US should now make a new effort to rectify them.

Not only must a further deterioration in the bilateral relationship be averted, but in retrospect, the perception of US pressure on Israel has not helped further the peace process either. The Palestinians, in their customary fashion, just saw in that a license for continued intransigence on their part.

What should be more worrying, from both Israel and America's point of view, is the lack of adequate communication between the two governments, including what has been described as insufficient mutual trust, makes it almost impossible to seriously consider getting down to the permanent status talks.

The hopefully good to be announced Clinton-Netanyahu meeting should, thus, give both leaders an opportunity to reestablish the necessary rapport between themselves - and enable Israel's prime minister to put on the table Israel's ideas for a future settlement. It may not be forthcoming day yet for the peace process; but there are certain, very definite red lines - security related and otherwise - on which Israel will have to insist.

The sooner those two sometimes uneasy allies - America and Israel - clarify to themselves where agreement exists and where not, the better it will be for both.

The writer is a former Israeli ambassador to Washington.

On the table

AARON LEIBNER

It has been said that Israeli fear being a *frère Gatsby* (Gatsby) more than dying. And the Netanyahu cabinet is no different. So after being repeatedly suckerced by the prime minister, the ministers were determined to leave nothing to chance when they met this week to hammer out a decision on a further redeployment. As a result, the cabinet announcement which resulted is probably the best-written document to come out of this administration.

There are several key features of the cabinet's decision worth special attention: The principle of reciprocity is restored, including the amendment of the Palestinian Charter and transfer of terrorists, and criteria for Israel's position regarding the final settlement now also includes settlements, water and explicitly, Jewish historical sites.

But are we out of the woods? Far from it.

First there is the question as to what further redeployment map Netanyahu's committee will come up with. Will it reflect the reality that the Palestinians can't be relied upon to honor security arrangements?

A good test is in Hebron. If the Palestinians were Canadians, it would be reasonable to rely on them to allow Jews to continue praying in the Cave of the Patriarchs. But they aren't. And the Palestinians make no bones about it. For as Palestinian Authority Minister of Waqf and Religious Affairs, Hassan Tibhoob, told me, the Cave of the Patriarchs is also the Ibrahim Mosque. And Jews cannot pray in mosques. In fact, they can't pray next to one.

Take the example of the Western Wall in Jerusalem. The Palestinians consider it part of Al Aksa Mosque and thus maintain that, under their rule, Jewish prayer will be prohibited within two meters of the Wall.

Reality also affects arrangements for territorial contiguity on the West Bank. If the Palestinians were Canadians it would not matter.

But the Palestinians have made it clear, time and again, that they don't consider the "final arrangements" to be "final" at all - rather, the best that they can get under the current circumstances. If these circumstances were to change, if the balance of power tilted in the favor against Israel, all bets are off.

ONCE the government presents its map, the political situation will change dramatically. Labor leaders, with their eyes on the future election, will be hard pressed to advocate offering the Palestinians more. And while it's easy to talk about percentages for further redeployment, once a map is out, Labor's Ehud Barak will hesitate to get caught on specifics.

There is, of course, a great danger in detailing the further redeployment, and making public a final settlement map. A weak negotiator can easily turn what should be Israel's final offer into nothing more than an opening one.

As for linking the redeployment to Palestinian compliance, there are certainly grounds for concern. Since his election, Netanyahu has continuously waffled on the demand for Palestinian reciprocity.

Ironically, Netanyahu may have an easier time defending his position in America than at home. For while the Clinton administration has never taken reciprocity seriously and is blind to even the gravest of Palestinian violations, the US Congress and Israel's American supporters have advocated this no-nonsense approach all along.

On the home front, Netanyahu will face tremendous pressure to bend on reciprocity.

The "loyal" opposition's argument for ignoring reality is as simple as it is dangerous: As Barak put it recently, if the Palestinians don't get what they want they will go to war.

Barak, of course, doesn't explain why the same logic doesn't apply to Jerusalem or Jaffa. Netanyahu's supporters know why this argument makes no sense. In fact, with the exception of the radical Left, the Israeli public can be made to appreciate the insanity of this approach.

Is Netanyahu up to the challenge? Only time will tell. And it pains me to admit that I have yet to find someone - inside the government or out - who is confident the premier will stand up to the pressure. By putting out a map and jumping to final status talks, Netanyahu puts more on the table than at any time in the modern state's history.

If Benjamin Netanyahu falters, not only will his cabinet and commitments be *frère* - Israel will have frittered away its best chance for a durable peace.

The writer directs IMRA (Independent Media Review & Analysis).

صكنا من الاصل

What do your children do in cyberspace?

SEX ON THE NET

The Net offers limitless opportunities for curious kids. Should parents and teachers monitor — and limit — where children surf? Aryeh Dean Cohen talks to educators about how to teach common Net sense

When Rachel Elkin of Jerusalem and her husband subscribed to an Internet service at home, they did so for "learning purposes." But instead, her 11-year-old daughter got a lesson about the Internet she'll never forget, reflecting concerns parents and educators alike have about just how much freedom youngsters should be given on the Net.

"We noticed one day that the door was closed in the computer room, which made us suspicious," said Elkin, whose older son is a computer whiz and taught his sister how to get into Net chat lines. "My daughter was in there with a couple of girlfriends, and I saw she was on one of these sex channels," recalled Elkin (not her real name).

"Now I know why the door was closed. She was typing in that she was blonde with brown eyes, which is true — but also that she is 17, which isn't. And all these people were writing to her saying that they've always wanted a blonde, brown-eyed girlfriend."

Elkin gave her daughter hell for that escapade, but soon there was more trouble. While her daughter and a friend were "talking" on a regular chat site with a boy purporting to be her own age, but subsequent calls were not. The young girl found herself besieged with "friends," and spent much of the next few days slamming the phone, doing not substantially on other calls.

While this incident turned out to be no more than an annoyance, similar ones elsewhere have ended less innocently. There have been reports of youngsters in the US being sought out by seemingly innocent chat partners and then abused or even murdered.

At a time when use of the Internet is spreading like wildfire, and Internet studies have been introduced in the schools, increasing numbers of educators and parents are debating just where to draw the line regarding Net access for children.

Imposing such limits isn't too difficult. There are several programs on the market which either limit access, or ensure that one's personal information isn't passed on. Few are foolproof, however, and when curiosity strikes, there are a burgeoning number of places youngsters can go to see what their parents might not want them to see.

WEB STUDIES are also being offered today in some 200 Israeli schools, mostly high schools, according to Yaffa Vidovsky, head of the Education Ministry's Science and Technology Administration. Pupils learn how to use the Net's databases and search engines, benefiting from the Net's integration of disciplines and learning English without even knowing it, Vidovsky says.

She is highly aware of what's out there in cyberspace, and therefore works with the pupils to

develop their own moral code in a Virtual City they create as part of their Internet studies.

"What's forbidden and what's permitted today doesn't just apply to the Internet, but to everything in the media," she says. "We've latched onto the Internet because we see it as something that is more easily accessible. But we should have been asking that same question the moment anyone hooked up to cable TV, for example. How can you keep a child from seeing something?"

"The basic question is whether we handcuff the kids and tell them: 'You're not going to go there because I'm limiting you.'"

'What's forbidden and what's permitted today doesn't just apply to the Internet, but to everything in the media. We should have been asking that same question the moment anyone hooked up to cable TV'

like in the old days, when there were books that were for certain age groups and the librarians simply didn't lend out books to children that weren't suitable.

"So you can choose this way of handling things, and if your child is smart, he doesn't watch cable at your house, but goes to a friend's house, and you can't control this, just like you can't keep them from seeing a movie that is off-limits to those under 18."

"This approach has the parent say: 'I'm going to determine what is off-limits,' and the things that are forbidden are like commandments ... and you say to the child you can't do this or that. However, there are research studies which show that if you tell an adolescent not to do something, or that they can't do something, their curiosity spurs them to do just that. They want to know exactly what it is they aren't allowed to see, or do."

Vidovsky and Education Ministry officials choose a different approach in the schools, one in which she says, "You build a code of ethics with the child, and with the teachers. And in this code of ethics, you explain to him why these things are not forbidden, but are negative. What's wrong with it, what it can lead to."

"We want to use this Virtual City project to teach children to determine on their own what's permitted and forbidden. So we build virtual cities with them via the Internet and set the rules with them, how the city will be ruled,

what's permitted and forbidden. "What we're saying is that setting these codes is not something we impose from above, but rather you decide yourself that it's necessary. That's first ... then you reach other codes with the help of the teacher and the pupils, which allow you to see what benefit or damage they can bring."

The program also teaches the youngsters how to deal with what they might encounter on the Internet. "Whatever you see on the Internet," says Vidovsky, "somebody put it there. So you must learn to discern between a real source of information and junk which anyone can dump into the Net, and is aimed at destroying those values which allow you to lead a normal life."

WHILE ACCESS to problematic sites at most schools in the program is limited by coaseat. Vidovsky says technical means will likely be used in state-religious schools to prevent access to such sites. One advocate of that approach is Zvi Ilani, marketing director of Toranet, which offers such services for home use.

Ilani rejects Vidovsky's idea of youngsters creating their own codes for Internet use. "I think there are also educators who would say you let a child play with a safety pin near an electrical outlet and say: 'He'll learn by himself by sticking the safety pin in the socket, getting a shock and learning not to play with it.' The same regarding playing with fire."

"But those who play with fire or electricity immediately feel that's a bad thing. The problem with these sites on the Internet is that sometimes 'don't think it's such a bad thing initially, and just drown in this stuff eventually. Letting them go their own way is the stupidest thing: it's like letting a child play alongside a precipice without a guard rail. How can a child keep from entering such sites? We know they are attracted to these things, how can they self-censor themselves? I've never heard of anything so ridiculous."

"People just aren't aware. The state-religious public who have televisions and go to movies aren't, either. People who are more liberal, shall we say. Such liberalism — and I think when it comes to the Internet, we really should call it permissiveness — creates problems with material that goes way beyond what is available on television or the movies. There is the worst type of pornography and there are many on the Net just looking for ways to lure youngsters."

Ilani is also angered that material being prepared for Internet education here ignores the special needs of the religious public.

"It's because there are all kinds of interested parties," he says. "The material is being prepared by bodies associated with the state schools, and the state-religious schools haven't been allowed to prepare their own materials."

The Education Ministry and in particular the Religious Education Department, must address this matter of preventing pupils from entering the open Internet. If it starts in school it will spread to the home."



Web studies are offered in 200 schools in Israel. One Education Ministry project strives to teach children to determine on their own what is permitted and what isn't.

EDUCATOR TOBY Klein Greenwald, vice president of creative development of WholeFamily, an educational website on family relationships, takes a different position. "This is not a question that can be answered in a vacuum, and the question of censorship of the media is not black and white," she says.

Zvi Ilani of Toranet advocates blocking problematic sites. Letting kids censor themselves, he says, 'is like letting a child play alongside a precipice without a guard rail'

"A great deal depends on the general approach of the family or of the school. It is easy for schools to block certain sites on the Net, and perhaps that's what should be done, because even if kids can get to it elsewhere, it is sending a subliminal message from the school. This is not acceptable to us. I think the school does not have to be shy or apologetic about its values. But it should be a topic

that teachers discuss with their students openly, along with discussion of values and self-censorship in other areas.

"Theo there is the question of the family and how the parents, like teachers, train children to develop their own sense of values and self-censorship," she says. While she does not believe chil-

dren should be taught to censor themselves, she believes parents should explain why he is doing so, discuss it with the child, and show his child that he respects him and expects him to develop a sense of what is appropriate viewing for him and what is not.

"Children also learn from personal example. Parents who are discriminating about what they read, view and surf and who have a good relationship with their children have a better chance of raising kids who will develop similar views."

Yaffa Ben-Dror, curriculum director for Funrekids, which runs after-school programs in which children are taught how to use the Internet, also believes a dialogue with the child is the best approach. "Simply talk to your children openly," she advises, "like you would tell them not to go to a porno movie. Explain what's problematic about it and then monitor the use of the Internet, occasionally checking what sites they're looking at, and don't let them surf alone all the time."

YANAI SACHS, 15, a self-confessed hacker who had Internet saudies at Jerusalem's Givat Gonen High School and also surfs at

home, says parents should work out Internet rules with their children.

"I can understand how some parents might want to limit the sites their child can see, but in general, I am against censorship of the Net."

He reports that teachers crack down hard on any pupils trying to use school computers to visit objectionable sites, and says while he's against forbidding access, "the schools have to set certain standards. After all, a school is a place that's supposed to educate you."

As for an overall solution, he recommends an approach where "you're shown what's good and what's bad on the Net, and told what to watch out for. That sounds good to me."

As for Rachel Elkin, while she and her husband "don't dictate" to their children what to do on the Net, they explained to their daughter the trouble she could get into.

"When the phone rang, she panicked, and realized she'd made a mistake," Elkin recalls. "I'd advise parents to keep a very close watch on what their children are doing on the Internet."

After all, there are children five and six years old using it, and you can get into deep water."

The Web's most sought-after sites

Sex is the most sought-after topic on the Internet, according to a new study by researchers at the University of California, San Diego. The study, which analyzed the annual "American Revolution" survey of 100,000 people, found that 60 percent of respondents said they had visited a sex-related website in the past year. The most popular sites were those offering chat rooms, virtual sex, and information on sexual health. The researchers also found that 40 percent of respondents had used the Internet to find a partner. The study suggests that the Internet is becoming a major source of information and entertainment for people interested in sex. It also notes that the use of the Internet for sexual purposes is increasing rapidly, and that this trend is likely to continue in the future.

Sexually explicit material is the number one income generator on the Net, and may soon spell the end of sex headlines.

There is also a potential for better long-term relationships.

When teens are obsessed with sex



Our 14-year-old seems obsessed with sex. He spent a lot of time looking at sexual positions on the Internet until we forbade it. Now he does it at a friend's house. One day, he left his diary lying around open and I saw pages of crude, primitive descriptions of sex. Is this something to worry about? Is it normal behavior for this age?

Alan J. Flashman, M.D., child psychiatrist and pediatrician, answers: Yes. However, the "fact" that it is normal is of little use to you. Let's try a few supplementary questions: Should I let him know that I am aware of his interests? I think so. Should I leave his sexual interest alone as his "private" business? After you talk with him, sure. But not instead of talking with him. And it would help if you don't use his "privacy" as a way of avoiding your own discomfort with the subject. Sometimes, "being liberal" is really being paralyzed. Well, what if I am paralyzed? Isn't that normal for someone who grew up in the Dark Ages? Yes. However, your son's sexual interest presents a challenge for you. But we hear that parents of adolescents are supposed to be consis-

tent—in other words, nothing new? I don't think this is true. Adolescents do need a measure of consistency; they need a basic anchor in a recognizable world in which they are more or less at home. This gives them the security from which they can develop further. But I think they also need to feel that their parents are growing as well. Otherwise, they feel they are alone in changing. What gives adolescents a sense of hope about the world is that their parents recreate themselves as parents in the face of adolescence. That gives adolescents the sense that they are growing with their parents, that they are participating in changes not only in themselves, but in their families as well. You soo is oow inviting you to undergo growth in the area of sexuality as a person, a couple, and a family. What kind of growth are you talking about? Isn't sex fully developed once the organs and glands are developed?

Only in the Playboy philosophy, which is a sort of Peter Pan of the Penis — erections only, no growing up. Those who produce the pornography exploit your son's healthy curiosity. That is where an adult can talk with him about the difference between sexual interest or excitement and sexual exploitation. Addressing this matter may awaken

some dormant and unresolved matters in the minds and bodies of many a father or mother. We often develop sexually in uneven and unexpressed ways. Sexual growth as adults involves the increasing ability to be interested in and sensitive to sexual meanings in our partner. Aside from what makes each person feel good, what makes her/him feel appreciated, and

close? Only when our adolescents challenge us do we feel called upon to examine and define our own development. Here is an opportunity for spouses to talk to each other before they talk to their offspring — about themselves, and not just about their child. The more secure parents feel about their own growth, the more confident they will be that they can

offer a grown-up and still-growing approach to sexuality. And that is the approach that your son has invited you to work out for yourself and bring to him when he lets you in on his peeping. Ruthie Blum's Answer to Tav will return next week.

Don't Waste Even... A Single Drop!

صكنا من الاصل



By Batshava Mink and David Brauner

The house plant from Kilimanjaro

Like the last-born in a large family who attracts all the attention, the African violet arrived at the end of the 19th century from the slopes of Kilimanjaro to become the most beloved of all house plants.

In the wild, these furry-leaved little plants, also known as Usambara violets, grow only in Tanzania in East Africa, at varying altitudes up to 2,000 meters. In 1892 a German colonial official, Baron Walter von St. Paul Ilaire, sent some specimens home to his father, who grew them successfully. These eventually came to the attention of Hermann Wendland, director of the Royal Botanic Garden at Herrenhausen, near Hanover. Though offered for sale in 1894, the first named varieties did not appear until 1927.

In honor of the finder, Wendland named the new genus *Saintpaulia* (Hebrew: *santpaulia afrikani*) of the Gesneriaceae family. And because the flowers looked similar to the true violet, although there is absolutely no botanical relationship to the violet family, the species was called *ionatha*, meaning violet-flowered.

In fact, African violets are "cousins" of the showy gloxinias from Brazil. One of the true house plants, African violets are capable of completing their whole life cycle, from seed to flowering, indoors. On a light windowsill, they will flower most of the year.

TO SUCCESSFULLY raise African violets at home, it is good to know something about how they grow in their natural habitat. Though originating in the tropics close to the equator, this little herb grows at high altitudes in the Usambara mountains of Tanzania. Therefore, the African violet is tolerant of lower temperatures than those occurring in sea-level rain forests and prefers indirect sun.

In general, African violets like to be pot-bound. So grow them in a small pot, but if they outgrow their original pot, move up one size pot only.

Light: The right light is the key element in keeping your plant flowering happily all year round. Too little light is usually the reason why these plants become "spindly" and do not flower. But too much light will result in "scorching" the fleshy leaves. They will bleach to a pale yellow color, and feel brittle to the touch.

You may have to experiment a little. For example, you buy or receive the gift of a plant in flower, and you place it on the dining-room table, where it is staying in flower. But it is not sending out any additional flowers and the existing flowers begin to pale. That means that the light conditions are not right for your plant to build itself up to produce more flowers.

If you want to put your plants on a windowsill, but there is too much direct sun, you can place a curtain about 50 cm. high across

the window. Use a heavier white fabric, not a fine oat curtain, which is too thin. From November to the end of February, you can increase their exposure to light.

Watering: Some say that African violets should be watered from the top, and others contend that they must be moistened only from the bottom. Quite honestly, either method is equally good. What really matters is how much water the plant gets.

Bear in mind, especially when watering from above, not to wet the leaves. Water on the leaves can kill the green chlorophyll, leaving white spots and streaks, particularly if the water is cold. Also, take care not to get water in the center of the plant. So if you water from the top, use a watering can with a long narrow spout to reach under the leaves.

Bottom watering is the best way to quickly revive a really dry plant. Stand the plant in a bowl with lukewarm water coming about halfway up the pot. Remove the pot after half an hour and return it to its growing position.

In watering terms, the African violet seems to thrive on neglect. Allow the pot to dry out somewhat, even to the stage where the leaves start to lose their crispness. If the pot feels light when you lift it, the plant needs water. And remember these are tropical plants, so in their natural environment the rain water is warm. So avoid shocking your plants with

cold tap water - it slows their growth.

Temperature: Optimum temperatures for the African violet are between 18 and 24°C, but in non-native environments (e.g., your home) the range can be stretched an additional three degrees either way, that is, 15 to 27°C. On the cold side, of this range, as the temperature falls, the plant's growth slows. Should the ambient temperature be allowed to dip to 10°, growth will stop entirely. At 5°, the plant will die.

Temperatures of 28 to 34° are equally harmful. Over 34° stresses the plant beyond endurance. It will try to pump up enough water from the roots to replace that which is given off in transpiration from the leaves. If it is not able to cope with the demand, not enough water will reach the foliage and the whole plant will collapse. Of course, flowering will also be affected, with smaller, short-lived blooms.

Humidity: A native of the rain forest, the African violet needs moist air. Commercially, they are grown in 60% humidity, while the average home has humidity of only around 30% in summer and even less in winter, when homes are heated.

Grouping plants together helps humidify the air. Or stand the pot on a tray of pebbles with water. The pebbles must be above the water level so the bottom of the pot does not come in contact with the water, otherwise unwanted water

will be absorbed into the soil.

Light misting early in the morning is another way of moistening. Make sure the plants are not exposed to the sun before they have dried off. Finally, the most humid rooms in the house are the kitchen and bathroom. These are excellent locations if the light is satisfactory.

Feeding: Starved plants lose their green color and flowers will be few, if any. Regular feeding is essential to replace food taken up by the plant or lost in watering. A 12-36-14 fertilizer, lower in nitrogen and high in phosphorous and potassium, is ideal.

Never feed a bone-dry plant in order not to "burn" delicate root hairs. While plants are actively growing, feed every 8-10 days using half the recommended strength. During slow-growing winter months, feeding should be reduced to a minimum or omitted altogether.

Pests and Diseases: Catching pests early is best. Examine your plants regularly. Use a magnifying glass, if necessary. The arsonemid (cyclamen) mite attacks the heart of the plant, where small, new leaves begin to appear more hairy, grayish, and eventually turn a sickly yellow. This pest is very difficult to eradicate, and if the plant does not respond to pesticide, it should be destroyed.

Mealy bugs, aphids and red spider mites can also infect African violets. Spray once with a pesticide available in gardening shops,



Illustration of African violet by J C Hellbrom-Crown

then again after two weeks. If you prefer an inorganic method, soak a cotton swab in alcohol and rub it on the infected area.

Propagation: Growing new plants is easy from leaf cuttings. Choose middle leaves between the oldest (outside) and youngest (center). Make clean cuts that include the stalks. Dip the stalk ends into a light hormone rooting powder containing fungicide. Use a sterilized rooting medium (available from nurseries). Poke holes into the medium with a pencil, insert the cuttings, leaving one centimeter of the stalk free, and firm the medium around. Water well. Now place the pot of cuttings in a large, clear plastic bag,

making sure it does not touch the leaves, and put it in a warm, bright location away from direct sun.

Another method is to fill a jam jar with warm water and cover the top in foil with holes in it for each cutting. This is best done during the hottest part of the year.

New plantlets appear at the base of the stem of each leaf in 5-6 weeks, sometimes longer. If any die, remove them immediately so as not to infect the others.

Your gardening questions and comments are welcome. Contact Batshava Mink, P.O.B. 3943, Jerusalem 91039, or David Brauner, e-mail: morri@ashur.cc.hu.ac.il

TIP OF THE WEEK

The simplest way to test the intensity of the light is to hold a hand between the plant and the sun. If a clear shadow is cast, the light is too bright.

This test applies to summer only. Winter sunlight in a cloudy climate is fine for African violets.

Heads 'N' Tails



By D'vora Ben Shaul

We are a family consisting of myself, my husband and our daughter who is 15. She is fond of all animals, and we have always had pets at home. Right now we have two cats. Our Labrador retriever died a few months ago at the age of 12. We have been talking about getting a puppy, and our daughter suggested that we become a foster family to a dog for the Israel Guide Dog Center.

Since I am at home all day and we all love animals, I have no objection to the idea. But I am afraid my daughter will suffer terribly when she has to give the dog back to the center after a year. I think my husband and I could handle giving back the dog, but I don't want to see my daughter suffer. What do you know about the effect of this situation on other youngsters?

A reader in Herzliya
The idea of being a foster family for a young guide dog is wonderful in itself, and your daughter seems to be a very mature young person to have suggested the idea. Certainly it is hard to part with an animal to whom you are attached, but there is a great difference between the pain one feels as a result of a sacrifice undertaken of one's own volition

Foster families for seeing eye puppies



Fostering goodwill: Families are needed to raise Labrador and golden retriever puppies for the first year of their lives.

and the pain of a loss over which you have no control.

I have known a number of youngsters who participated in fostering a guide dog in their home. All were attached to the animal because only people who really care for animals would be foster families in the first place. In most cases, the parting brought on a few tears, but they all seemed to gain strength from the fact that they were doing a good - one might say even noble - thing in raising a puppy to be of service to a handicapped person and thus giving someone else a priceless gift.

I think that such an experience is an opportunity for personal growth for all parties. I have never met a family which undertook such a program that did not feel greatly enriched by the experience.

For our other readers, perhaps a few words about the program would be in order.

The Israel Guide Dog Center for the Blind needs foster families to raise Labrador and golden retriever puppies for the first year of their lives. This is important because only dogs that have had a good and loving start in life are suited to the responsibility of being a guide dog. Kemeled puppies won't do.



Only dogs that have had a good and loving start in life are fit to become guide dogs.

It is that vital first year that shapes the dog's character for a lifetime. The center prefers families where there is someone at home most of the day. It is important that the puppy become familiar with living in a home, learn how to behave, and become familiar with the city or town in which it lives. The pup-

pies must learn how to greet visitors and how to have good household manners. At all stages, the family is given assistance by experts and receives financial aid to cover expenses.

Readers interested in this program can call the center at (08) 940-8213.

The color of money

By BETH BERSELLI

This time next year we'll be wearing zephyr-hued clothing, driving tarpon green cars and eating off dishware the color of cajun spice.

The walls will be beige, or maybe dragonfly, and look for lime light in products as varied as sporting goods and vinyl blinds.

So predict the titans of tint at the Color Marketing Group, an Alexandria, Va.-based trade association that for 35 years has sought to bring order to the chaotic chromatic world. The 1,500-member association includes in-house colorists at Fortune 500 companies, as well as independent color consultants whose clients include Wal-Mart Stores Inc., Ford Motor Co., and Igloo Products Corp.

The CMG plays a large part in determining what hues will rule the worlds of fashion, automobiles

and home and office decor. Make no mistake - picking colors is big business. The CMG, and the industries it serves, is well aware that millions of dollars are riding on its color forecasts.

The CMG brought us avocado

"As we move into the millennium, we're becoming more optimistic, so the colors are brighter"

refrigerators in the late 1960s and teal automobiles in the 1990s. Now the association's members are predicting a consumer palette of 1970s-style earth tones, but with a new-era twist. Also look for whiter and brighter hues, as

well as deeper, more saturated colors, such as red-hot cajun spice.

This "color forecast," as the CMG calls it, is based on emerging economic and social trends. "As we move into the millennium, we're becoming more optimistic, so the colors are brighter," said CMG member Pat Verlot, who owns a color consulting firm in Illinois.

"It's like a brave new world, a brave new color." A strong economy has made consumers more daring and willing to experiment with bright new "fun" colors, according to the hue gurus at the CMG. "You don't have to be timid about color anymore," said Melanie Wood, the association's president. "You can do what you want and it's okay."

The telecommunications explosion has exposed consumers to vast amounts of information and increased their color savvy. And

the interest in the eye has not waned, still around, so there's a healthy mix of green.

"The best product is the one that isn't the right color, it won't sell very well," Wood said. She then recited the association's oft-repeated motto: "Color sells and the right color sells better." Consider these examples of products that took off after a color makeover: A few years back, Igloo Products hired CMG's Verlot to advise the company on the "right" color for its coolers. Traditional red, blue and white products weren't selling as well as the company wanted. Verlot suggested adding tropical colors - including turquoise and raspberry. Sales shot up 15 percent.

At a consultant's urging, McCormick & Co., the spice giant, changed its packaging for some popular products from drab olive green to deeper forest green.

Make no mistake: picking colors is big business. The Color Marketing Group, and the industries it serves, are well aware that millions of dollars are riding on its color forecasts.

toilet bowl cleanser have benefited from a color redo. In 1990, a consultant decided the light blue and green bottles of Kiwi-Blasts TV

toilet bowl cleanser were recommended to be changed to a softer, more feminine shade of sage green.

A key to the success of the "right" color for a product is recognizing the so-called associated factor. Orange, for example, is often associated with cheapness. While that color might work great for a discount store, it's not a color scheme Nordstrom's or Saks Fifth Avenue would want.

Another consideration: Colors don't necessarily cross industry lines. While orange might work as an accent color in fashion - say a scarf - it's unlikely anyone would buy a pumpkin-colored car. Psychology plays a large part in color selection. Numerous studies have shown that red and other

bright colors are associated with softer tones. Ayn Crowell, professor of marketing at the University of Des Moines, Iowa, says that as the economy improves, consumers will favor brighter colors.

Color is also a powerful marketing tool. The color of a product can influence a consumer's perception of its quality. For example, a study found that consumers perceived products in red packaging as being of higher quality than those in blue packaging.

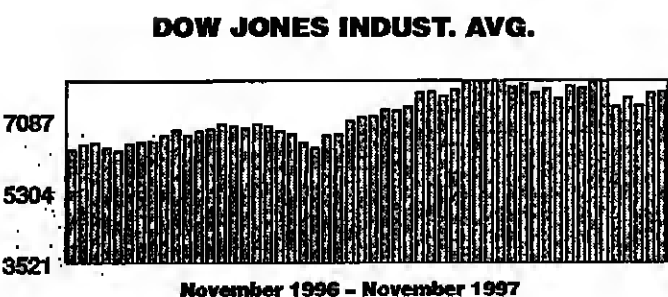
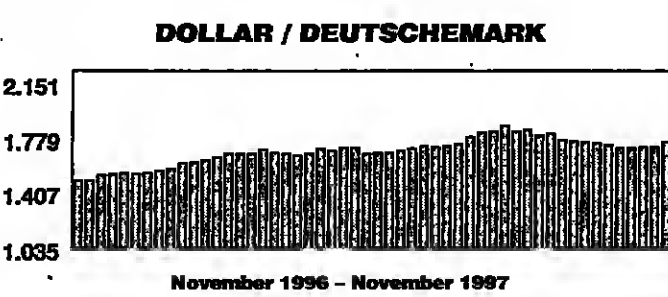
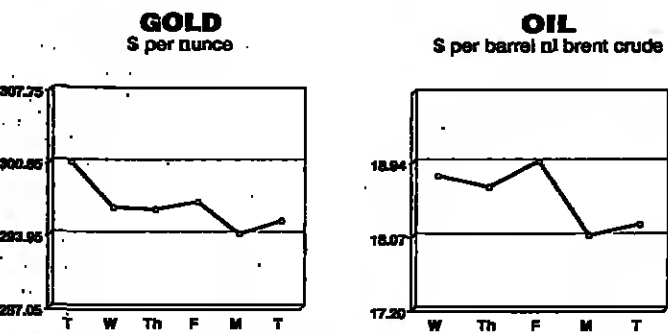
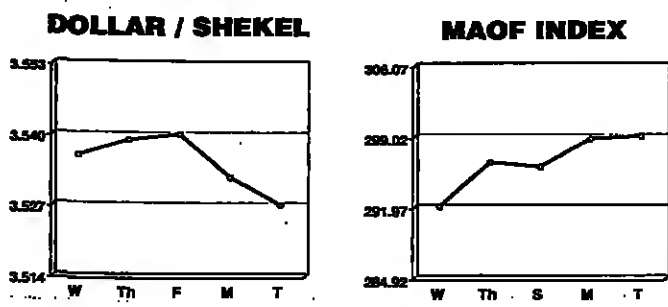
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مركز الأخبار

MARKETS

in brief



Azorum to buy 50% of Shikun U'Pituach

Azorum will purchase the 50 percent of shares in Shikun U'Pituach owned by Israel Corporation and Renaissance Fund, for NIS 300 million, the company announced yesterday. Following the deal, Azorum, of the Clal Group, will become the full owner of Shikun U'Pituach. A formal merger between Azorum and Shikun U'Pituach is not being considered at this stage but, according to estimates, Azorum and Clal intend to consolidate the activities of the two companies, and to turn the consolidated company into the leader in residential building in Israel. *Globes*

Jan.-Nov. state revenues up 1.3%

State revenues in the first 11 months totaled NIS 98.9 billion, a 1.3 percent real terms increase, according to treasury figures published yesterday. Of that, some NIS 54.4b. was collected by the Income and Property Tax department, up 3.3%. The Customs and VAT department, meanwhile, raised NIS 42b., down 1% on the sum through the same period last year. *David Harris*

Livnat: Bezeq flotation and share sale to Cable this month

By DAVID HARRIS

The government will sell seven to 10 percent of Bezeq shares in Tel Aviv before the end of the year, Communication Minister Limor Livnat said yesterday. The sale of additional shares to the British Cable and Wireless company also will take place during December, the minister said. The flotation originally was scheduled for November, but government threats of legal action against Bezeq subsidiary Bezeq International apparently led to a delay. Bezeq is presently 63.3% government

owned, with Cable holding 10.02%. In July, the government sold Merrill Lynch a 12.4% stake in Bezeq. The shares were to be sold to various concerns here and abroad. The government's stated 1997 target is to reduce its stake in the firm from 76% to 52%. "The flotation will be within the next few weeks, before the end of December," Livnat said. With regard to Cable, Livnat confirmed there would be news before the year's end. It is still unclear how large a stake will be sold to C&W. For several months the firm and the Government Companies Authority

have been negotiating, with C&W asking for an additional 10%. Late last month there were media reports that the government is offering only 3%, but both sides agreed talks were more promising than previously. The likely outcome, according to Israeli sources, is that a percentage smaller than 10% will be sold to Cable this month, with the remainder changing hands next year. "Relations are currently friendly," the source said. "You know there were times when the two sides weren't even speaking." Meanwhile, Bezeq Chairman Izzy Tapoohi yesterday handed a dividend check

for NIS 49.5 million to Livnat and Finance Minister Yaakov Neeman. The sum is the final dividend payment for 1996. For that year, the company is making dividend payments to shareholders of NIS 197.6m. or 30% of net profits. During the ceremony in the Treasury, Neeman praised Livnat for leading the way in implementing the government's structural changes program. "I think you are an excellent example of how to achieve efficiencies through competition, which means better service," Neeman said.

Korea shuts 9 commercial banks in return for massive IMF bailout

By SANGMIN HAN and JUDY LEE

SEOUL (Bloomberg) — South Korean stocks tumbled for a ninth day, the won weakened to a record low against the dollar, and interest rates rose to five-year highs as the abrupt closure of nine merchant banks shook investors' confidence in the country's financial industry.

The benchmark KOSPI stock index fell 4.14 percent to its lowest since May 1987. The won fell almost 4% and the country's benchmark interest rate, the three-year corporate bond yield, briefly rose as high as 18.20%.

Korea shut almost a third of its merchant banks, which are short-term finance specialists, as it entered a sixth day of talks with the International Monetary Fund over a massive financial bailout. An accord is likely to be reached today, IMF officials said.

The closures within the troubled industry hammered home the economic price Korea will have to pay for the IMF's help. More than 15,000 companies filed for bankruptcy protection this year, and the government is asking the IMF to help bailout bankrupt financial and industrial companies and shore up the country's foreign-exchange reserves.

"Investors are worried by the expected shocks from the IMF bailout plan to the country's economy," said Park Yong Shik, an analyst at Daewoo Securities. "They're selling even before the conditions are disclosed."

Korea may have little choice but to accept tough medicine. It may need as much as \$60 billion.

Besides shutting some of debt-ridden finance companies — commercial banks alone have more than \$20 billion of bad debts — the country is expected to slow its growth to 2.5% next year, compared with an estimated 6% this year. Government spending may be cut by 10%.

The government already promised to throw open its bond market to foreign investors. Yesterday, though, it was the coming economic pain that many investors focused on. Samsung Electronics, the world's largest computer memory chip maker, paced the decline in the stock market.

"Korean companies are in great confusion now," said B.W. Kim, a broker at Jardine Fleming Securities. "No one can be sure how the IMF bailout program will go."

The benchmark KOSPI index of 775 companies plunged 16.29, or 4.14%, to 376.87, its lowest since May 7, 1987. The index has fallen 26% in nine days.

Meanwhile, the banking index jumped 3.92% — its first gain in nine days — after Finance and



Members of the South Korean Bank Union hold a rally in downtown Seoul yesterday, claiming that a bailout by the IMF will lead to massive layoffs of bank workers. (AP)

Economy Ministry spokesman Chung Eun Dong, speaking outside the negotiation room, said the government "won't let any other financial institutions close."

Kookmin Bank, Korea Long Term Credit Bank, Korea Exchange Bank, and Commercial Bank of Korea were all targeted, traders said. Kookmin Bank, the most profitable bank in Korea, rose 7.88% to 6,980. Commercial Bank of Korea, one of the nation's top six commercial banks in terms

of the numbers of branches, stood unchanged at 2,130 after falling as much as 8%.

Samsung Electronics shares lost 4.34% to 39,700. LG Semicon, another chip maker, fell 7.65% to 16,900.

The won weakened 3.79% to 1,233 to the dollar. The won has already lost half of its value this year.

Benchmark three-year corporate bond yields was unchanged at 17.5% after surging as high as 18.2%, near a five-year high. The

yield on three-month certificate of deposit was also unchanged at 15%.

Finance companies, except some commercial banks, were rolled by concern about the health of the entire industry.

Korea First Bank, which is struggling with mounting bad loans, fell 7.56% to 1,590; Hyundai Merchant Bank fell 7.9% to 8,600; and Daewoo Securities, Korea's largest brokerage, shed 7.9% to 6,090.

Neeman: Growth can reach 5%

By DAVID HARRIS

Economic growth will return to four to five percent, or even higher, but only given the correct economic conditions, Finance Minister Yaakov Neeman said yesterday. Speaking to the Institute of Certified Public Accountants in Israel, Neeman, Bank of Israel Governor Jacob Frenkel and the prime minister's economics adviser Moshe Leon all urged MKs to approve the 1998 state budget, including an NIS 2.3 billion cut in spending.

"Israel can have new sustainable growth of 4-5% or more — but this depends on us," Neeman said.

Much of the economic "water-treading" is because the previous government entered wage agreements that cannot be upheld, Neeman said.

This year's growth will be 2%, according to Leon, who described the current period as "the end to the break" in Israel's economic development. By the second half of 1998 growth will begin increasing once again, with sustainable growth of some 4% in 1999-2000, he said.

In all probability the budget deficit will be within the government's target of 2.8% of the gross domestic product this year, according to Leon, with the stated aim of a 2.4% deficit next year. The intention is to lower the 1998 public sector proportion of GDP to 46.6%.

Neeman received strong support from Frenkel, who called on the country to back the finance minister in his attempt to pass a balanced budget.

"The finance minister is entitled to the full support that is due to him," Frenkel said. "It's not a political question."

On the privatization front, receipts this year will reach NIS 8-9b. when the target was NIS 4b., Leon added. During 1998, the key sales of government companies will be the completion of the bank privatizations, leaving off additional stakes in Bezeq and Israel Chemicals, together with El Al, the Israel Foreign Trade Risk Insurance Corp., Afridar (the Ashkelon development company) and other smaller state assets.

Inflation will be around the 9% mark, Leon said, this the fruits of tight economic policies.

"The fact that inflation hasn't increased — that is the achievement, it doesn't matter whose," Frenkel added.

The two other speakers, Manufacturers Association Vice President Doron Tamir and economist Ya'acov Sheinin both called for a fresh look at the shekel exchange rate. Israel will successfully come out of the slowdown if monetary policy and the government's attitude to infrastructure are changed, Sheinin said. Greater spending on infrastructure, particularly in encouraging rail travel, could have a strong positive effect, Sheinin said.

Israel's other class struggle

By HAIM SHAPIRO

Will over 50 people a day pay some \$3,000 just so they can fly between Tel Aviv and London stretched out full length under a cuddly Britsh

Airways thinks so and is banking on it.

At a time when other airlines are cutting back on first class or eliminating it altogether, BA plans to start a first-class service to Israel, starting March 29, airline executives said at a press conference in Tel Aviv yesterday. The move is scheduled to coincide with the introduction of two Boeing 777s on the Israel route, the first such aircraft to fly regularly to Israel.

Nira Dror, director of BA in Israel, said that with the new aircraft, the airline would put Israel on its list of long-haul destinations. This means that not only will there be 14 first-class seats on each of the airline's 15 weekly flights, but that the business-class seats also would be roomier and that section is to have a buffet, available throughout the flight. Even the peasants in tourist class are to get goodies in the form of a toilet kit.

But the big news, economically

speaking, is the introduction of first class.

"We are the only airline that can guarantee a first-class seat from Israel," Dror said.

El Al has first-class seats on its Boeing 747s, but not on its smaller aircraft. During the summer, the larger aircraft fly daily flights to London and Paris, while for the winter schedule they are used less often, El Al spokesman Nachman Kliezman said yesterday. Kliezman said he knew of no other airline offering first-class seats on flights to Israel.

During the past few years, the tendency has been for airlines to cut down on first class or eliminate it entirely. This is based on the theory that even the very rich are not willing to pay premium prices for ultimate pampering when they can get the relative comfort of business class for far less. SAS and KLM, for example, have eliminated first class altogether during the past three years.

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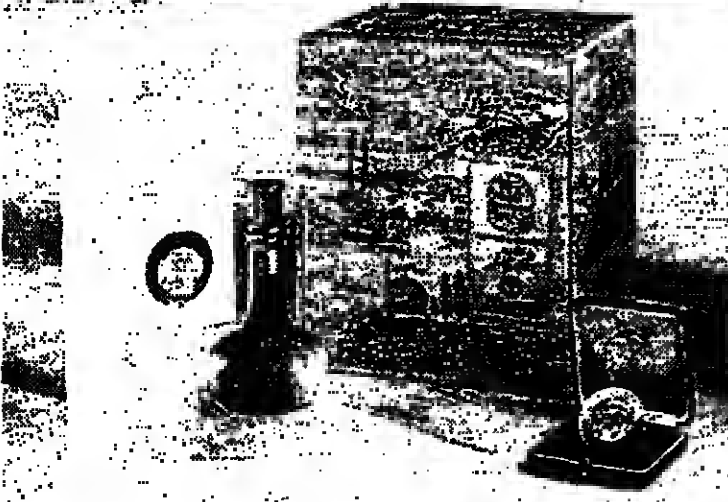
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صكنا من الاصل

THE BUSINESS SCENE

By GREER LAV CASIMAN



A joint creative effort by perfumer Judith Muller, coin and medal designer Reuven Nuteles, graphic artist Ariella Reisman, and Avishai Shachar of Izru Izru Tel Aviv, has been awarded the World Star first prize by the jury of the World Packaging Organization in New York.

Zev Klein has been named general manager of the Renanim shopping mall, the largest mall in the Sharon area. The project, which is scheduled to become operational in July, 1998, was developed by brothers Sammy and Yehiel Ofer.

Dan David has been appointed vice president for engineering at Bezeq International. A Haifa Technion graduate in electrical engineering, David, 48, has spent the past 20 years in a series of key positions at Elbit.

Sara Japhet, Yehzekel Kaufman professor of Bible Studies at the Hebrew University, Jerusalem, is the newly appointed director of the Jewish National and University Library of the Hebrew University.

Yehel Lantzenberg, chairman of the Zahal Disabled Veterans Organization, was re-elected for a second four-year term as first deputy president of the International Association of Disabled Athletes.

The highroad to high tech

Buying into a compelling technology story could reap huge rewards for the local investor

By NEIL COHEN

Over the past two weeks, both our main portfolios have significantly underperformed the market. The conservative rose 1.79 percent and the aggressive 1.41 percent in a period when the general share market rose 4.54 percent.

I'm not in the least bit bothered that we've underperformed over a two-week period. We now have significant cash cushions going forward. If the market surges, we still have good quality holdings which I like for the future.

Carmel Container and Ampal have been pretty poor performers. For example, Carmel is at the low end of its industry cycle, and lacks new capacity on stream, so profits have been depressed.

stock can pick up very sharply when the cycle turns. Ampal is being reshaped by the Steimetz diamond family, who acquired control last year from long-time controlling shareholder Bank Hapoalim.

I think the long-term story is reasonable, backed by a solid asset base. On the other hand, considering that the new ownership and management were brought in to revitalize an attractive but under-exploited collection of assets, an investment in Ampal is now a bet on a largely untried management team.

Last week, yet another acquisition of an early-stage Israeli high-tech company by major foreign concerns was announced. This time it was the sale of Rad-Net to Siemens and Newbridge Networks for \$80 million.

PERSONAL FINANCE



Johnson shelled out \$400m. for Biogene, and Cylind paid \$83m. for Algorithmic Research. These are but the last in a long line of profitable exits for those bold enough to invest in Israeli high-tech start-ups.

Our best performer, by far, has been the high-tech concern Orbotech. One of the next best performers has been Tower Semiconductor, which we bought at \$5 and change, have seen go north of \$20 and even at \$10 or so we are still showing very good returns.

One of the ways to play this sector is by trying to spot promising technology companies that are already publicly traded, and therefore financially more stable and less risky than start-up situations.

we bought Orbotech at \$14.5 and it has been as high as four times that in the space of about a year.

Even Checkpoint Software Systems, widely regarded as one of the country's all-time high-tech start-up successes - where a group of young programmers each made hundreds of millions of dollars within a few years - has provided such opportunities.

So, in uncertain times, if there's a compelling technology story around, such as Orbotech, we'll be going for it.

Still, not every growth or start-up story comes from technology. One start-up I have been following since its infancy is Direct Insurance, the baby of Zur Shamir, which is controlled by the Scheidman family.

Direct Insurance imitates British Line, the highly successful British pioneer of Direct Insurance. The business model is very simple: Cut out the insurance agent who takes a hefty commission for handling the customer and policy, and you can offer cut-rates insurance.

aggressive campaign by the insurance-agents association, who see their livelihood threatened, Direct Insurance has been so successful that it has attracted a bunch of imitators and competitors.

It is running quite nicely one step ahead of the pack and having hi-tech sold only elementary insurance, i.e. auto and household insurance, it will shortly begin to offer life insurance.

Taking market share away from the big traditional insurers in their most profitable line of business will not be easy, but it is clear that insurance sold over the telephone has its place in the Israeli market.

Since taking control of Zur Shamir, the Scheidmans have successfully launched and built Direct Insurance, closed down the group's loss-making textile activities and made some savvy real-estate moves. The stock trades at 16 times historic earnings and at book value.

I think that if the life insurance business goes well, there's nice upside from here. So for the defensive portfolio we're buying the series 3 CPI-linked convertible bonds which yield CPI plus 4.2% after tax, to redemption; have an average of 4.8 years to run, i.e., plenty of time; and have a reasonable conversion premium of 43%.

The writer works in the investment industry and may hold positions in securities mentioned in the column. This column should not be taken as advice to buy, sell or continue to hold any securities and anyone acting on the advice of this column does so at his or her own risk.

NEIL'S PORTFOLIO table with columns for Fund Name, No. of shares, Cost/share, Total cost, Current price, and Current value. Includes sub-sections for Conservative, Aggressive, and Defensive portfolios.

BOJ: Yamaichi assets exceed liabilities

Bank of Japan (BOJ) Governor Yasuo Matsuishi said yesterday the failed Yamaichi Securities Co.'s assets exceed its liabilities, and that the brokerage will be able to repay special loans from the central bank.

Speaking at a session of the Finance Committee of the upper house of parliament, Matsuishi said Yamaichi will repay the loans by selling assets. He added that the brokerage, which said on Nov. 28 it would close, will not shut its doors soon, because it will take time to sell assets to pay off the loans.

The central bank issued 3.8 trillion yen (\$29.6 billion) in special loans to troubled companies as of Thursday, Matsuishi said. As of last Tuesday, the Bank of Japan had provided about 760 billion yen of the total to Yamaichi.

Regarding Japan's broader economic situation, the central bank chief reiterated that the economy is slowing down and that the Bank of Japan will therefore maintain its low-interest-rate policy.

Matsuishi added that the central bank could not confirm that Japan's growth is sustainable, and implied that the BOJ will hold rates low until that could be confirmed. The BOJ has kept its official discount rate, the rate it charges banks for overnight loans, at a record-low 0.5 percent since September 1995.

Japan's economy shrank 2.9% in the April-June quarter, or 11.2% on an annualized basis, its worst performance in 24 years. (Bloomberg Business News)

MUTUAL FUNDS

Large table of mutual fund data with columns for Fund Name, Unit Cost, Redemption Price, Monthly Yield, and NIS Assets. Includes sub-sections for Flexible, Foreign Currency, Company Bonds, and State Bonds.

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National hoopsters look for third straight win

By ARYEH DEAN COHEN

Win three or not win three - that is the question Israel's national basketball team will be out to answer when they take the floor against the host Danish national squad tonight, as part of the preliminary round of competition in the European championships.

With two victories already, Israel is off to a lightning start in Group C in the race for a spot in the championships scheduled for France in 1999. Guy Goodes, Nadav Henefeld and Gur Shelef have all been outstanding in the club's two wins thus far, and a third triumph, particularly on the road, would give Israel a substantial bonus before the competition goes on hiatus until next February.

The Danish club, while not considered a particularly strong rival, has a few European players who could conceivably pose problems. Mikkaal Larsen (2.07) and Michael Andersen (2.13) both play on AAK Athens, and it was still unclear whether AAK officials would allow the two to travel to Denmark for the game, since the two reportedly have an important league

game this Saturday.

Defense has been the key to Israel's success so far, especially the play of Shelef, who made eight steals vs. Ukraine Saturday night in Israel's 65-62 victory.

On offense, the club has avoided having to rely on Oded Katash, giving the Maccabi Tel Aviv guard time to recover from a nagging Achilles heel injury while also providing an opportunity for Goodes, who has made the most of it. Nadav Henefeld has looked like a different player with the national team, scoring 15 points and grabbing nine rebounds against the Ukrainians.

Coaches Muli Katzurin and David Blatt deserve full points for preparing the club in an outstanding fashion both mentally and physically. A victory will leave Israel as king of its division, perhaps along with Spain, which goes to tonight's action with an identical 2-0 mark, a lofty perch Israel has proven this week through hard work and team play that it rightfully deserves.

Graham re-signs with Leeds

LONDON (Reuters) - Leeds manager George Graham signed a new long-term contract yesterday making him one of the highest paid bosses in English soccer.

"I'm more than happy to commit myself to Leeds United for the next few years," the former Arsenal manager said after signing a deal reported to be for four years and worth around \$1 million a year.

The 53-year-old Scot said the signing would end speculation linking his name to other jobs - particularly that at Glasgow Rangers - and allow him to concentrate on the task at Leeds.

Graham joined Leeds after serving a one-year suspension for receiving unauthorized payments on transfer deals while at Arsenal, who sacked him in February 1995.

Leeds under Graham have flourished and are now fourth in the Premier League, five points off the pace.

Pakistan in strong position to clinch series

RAWALPINDI (AP) - Pakistan was in a strong position to clinch the three-match series against West Indies after keeping the visitors to 99 for six in the second innings at stumps on the fourth day of the second cricket Test yesterday.

West Indies earlier in the day conceded a 168-run first innings lead after Pakistan innings folded at 471 in reply to West Indies 303.

However, the cream of West Indies batting line-up crumbled in front of pace duo Wasim Akram and Waqar Younis and are still 69 runs in arrears to make Pakistan bat again with only four wickets in hand.

Carl Hooper was fighting the grim battle on an attacking 44, which included three sixes in leg-spinner Mushtaq Ahmed's one over. He survived a vicious bouncer from Younis before umpires called off the day's play 19 overs before schedule due to bad light.

Debutante opener Philo Wallace, who was out for five in his first Test innings, yet again failed to give his side a decent start when Younis had him trapped leg before for just eight.

Brian Lara continued his poor form in the series with scores of only 3, 37 and 15 behind him in the three Test innings on the current series.

Desperately needing a big innings from Lara, the clouds of defeat loomed large on West Indies when the left-hander played a loose shot off Akram's slower delivery and was smartly caught and bowled by Pakistan skipper in only the 11th over after scoring just a single off 16 balls.

Snaat Williams (1) fell to a controversial no-ball from Akram as TV replays clearly showed that Azhar Mehmood had the batsman caught at gully position but not before Akram had over-stepped the bowling crease. However, Pakistan umpire Javed Akhtar failed to judge.

The daring opener Sherwin Campbell, who scored a polished 78 in the first innings, and Carl Hooper, put on 41 runs for the third wicket before leg-spinner Mushtaq Ahmed struck shortly after tea.

Campbell stroked three sweetly timed boundaries before he was bowled between his legs while trying to play a pull shot of Ahmed after making 34 off 79 deliveries.

'Just to be close to the kids'

Matt Williams orchestrates deal to expansion Diamondbacks



HOT CORNER - 3B Matt Williams heads for Phoenix and hands-on fatherhood.

CLEVELAND (AP) - The Cleveland Indians set Matt Williams home to Arizona on Monday, acquiring Travis Fryman and left-hander Tom Martin from the Diamondbacks in a trade brought about by a player's divorce.

Williams, a power-hitting third baseman who wanted desperately to play in Phoenix to be with his children, agreed to a \$45 million, five-year extension with the Diamondbacks as part of the trade - then essentially gave his new team \$2.5m to get the deal done.

"This is the most important decision of the rest of my life," said the recently divorced Williams, who agreed to reduce his '98 salary from \$7-10.5m.

"As a result, he's here," said Diamondbacks owner Jerry Colangelo.

"It certainly has the feel of an unprecedented gesture," said Williams' agent, Jeff Moorad.

Williams' divorce from his wife of eight years began during spring training and was finalized at mid-season. His three children live in Paradise Valley, Arizona, which is near Phoenix.

Williams, 32, batted 263 with 32 homers and 105 RBIs in his only season with the Indians. As divorce proceedings pulled down his spirits and batting average, Williams repeatedly told the Cleveland front office that he would sign with Arizona when his contract was up next year.

Cleveland general manager John Hart called it "one of the most unusual circumstances I have been

through." "We don't want to get the reputation that we're the benevolent team and if you don't want to play here, you can get out," Hart said. "If there was not a value deal, we were willing to keep Matt and stick it out."

Fryman, 28, was acquired by Arizona from the Detroit Tigers on Nov. 15 in a trade the night of the expansion draft. He hit .274 last season with 22 homers and 102 RBIs, topping 20 homers and 100 RBIs for the second straight season.

Martin, 27, was 5-3 with a 2.09 ERA for Houston last season.

He was selected by the Diamondbacks with their first pick of the second round of the expansion draft.

Williams was entering the final year of a contract that would have made him Cleveland's highest-paid player in 1998. The Indians tried to trade him to Arizona on the day of the expansion draft, but the deal fell through.

Twins ponder move

The group that intends to buy the Minnesota Twins and move them to North Carolina said Monday it was moving into the final stage of negotiating a purchase agreement.

"We have substantially completed our due diligence and have been working on all the details necessary to get a definitive contract that is agreeable to all parties," said Don Beaver, chairman of North Carolina Major League Baseball LLC.

"We are in the process of drafting the definitive agreement and the related documents. We will be continuing our discussions with the Twins management on these documents and preparing for the submission of the documents to major league baseball in the next several weeks."

Beaver and Twins owner Carl Pohlad signed an agreement in October saying they would negotiate a purchase unless the Minnesota government approved funding for a new ballpark by Nov. 30. The Minnesota House defeated a stadium financing proposal 84-47 on Nov. 13.

Baseball owners must approve both a sale and a relocation.

They are not likely to vote until next June or September, preferring not to decide until North Carolina decides whether to fund a ballpark.

Ofer becomes 4th coach this season at Hapoel Beersheba

By ORI LEWIS

As predicted, the short tenure of Bulgarian coach Gyorgi Tzvetkov at the helm of Hapoel Beersheba came to an end yesterday, just one week after he took up his post. He was replaced by Eliahu Ofer.

Tzvetkov was in charge of the club for only one match, the 2-0 home defeat against Hapoel Beit She'an. Chairman Eli Zino was said to be very disappointed with the Bulgarian's recruit-

ing abilities. He brought three of his countrymen whom he had recommended personally, but all proved to be very disappointing on the day of the game. One of them, Valentin Dratlov, was sent home the following day. The fate of the other two, Peter Ajuv and Pelman Timenev, is still to be decided.

Ofer, the rotund, dour disciplinarian, was once a player with Beersheba, and was a member of the historic side which won the National League title two seasons in a row in the mid-1970. Ofer later became a coach with Hapoel

Jerusalem where he had limited success in the Second Division.

Ofer is the fourth coach to take charge of Beersheba this season, following Benny Tabak, Jackie Dekel and Tzvetkov, but the frequent changes have not done the club - which languish at the bottom of the league - any good.

Two players have also been drafted in to try help the club - defenders Ehud Kehila and Bahajut Uda - but the long haul back to respectability still appears to be a faint prospect.

CLASSIFIEDS

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The gloves come off for 'Saint' Frank

BRITAIN'S image of Frank Bruno has always been nothing less than wholesome. Perversely, for someone whose main employment came from smashing his huge fists into an opponent's skull, big Frank always came across as a rather cuddly. In fact, his whole appeal seemed to stem from the fact that despite being involved in one of the most brutal of sports, he always approached his work with a happy-go-lucky determination, liberally sprinkled with an intimate gentleness.

LONDON CALLING

By Andy Cooper

Which is why the nation was collectively shocked last week when it learned there was trouble on the Bruno domestic front. Wife Laura went to the High Court to obtain a restraining order against Frank, stopping him from using violence against her. To add to the injury, the court proceedings were carried out while Frank was playing the establishment celebrity at an occasion with the Royal Family.

From the outside looking in, the Brunos' marriage had seemed rock steady. In fact Laura seemed as much a partner in business as in love. Those in the know say that to get to Frank you have to first get past Laura. Her role in his rise was pivotal. A notoriously tough cookie, she helped shape his career.

Through Frank's capacity to earn big bucks through boxing and various other sidelines - panto, TV appearances, endorsements - this essentially working-class couple have propelled themselves into the super league. Owing a country pile on the fringes of London, Frank has accumulated enough "bunce," as he memorably puts it, to settle down and relax.

And yet there lies the rub. The state of the Bruno's marriage is, of course, their own business. But when the nation learned that Frank - cuddly, lovely Frank - had been subjecting his wife to violence, then the sound of the image slipping could be heard from Preston to Plymouth.

Many ex-boxers came out of the woodwork to say they suspected Bruno may have succumbed to something they themselves suffered from - the once proud, big-time fighter having retired and finding time on his hands with little to fill it.

When Bruno, a supremely focused individual, hung up the gloves for good, it appears there may have been enormous pressures on his family life. If violence did occur - and Bruno went onto national radio soon after the storm broke, urging everyone "not to believe everything you read in the papers" - then it is inexcusable. But perhaps understandable.

When Bruno finally won a world championship in 1996, it seemed like the perfect ending to the rags-to-riches story.

Likeable, witty and good with the media, the man had already made a career out of being a personality - the win was just the icing on the cake and helped elevate his popularity to unknown levels. But deep down, there has always been a sense that the British public and the press in particular, has been reluctant to take Bruno seriously. The jolky, affable persona he cultivated always seemed slightly false and hinted at something else lurking behind the clown. Last week's

events perhaps proved there was. It proved, if there was a need, that Bruno is human after all. There wasn't the hysterical media coverage of this dark story some other less loved celebrities might have expected. It was as though the newspaper editors, too, didn't know how to handle the slipping of the halo. Typically, Bruno has come out fighting, at least metaphorically, saying he is going to devote more time to his family, and announcing plans to become a boxing agent and promoter (a paradox if ever there was one).

But if through this, we all see a different side to Frank - and take him more seriously - then perhaps, after all, some good will come of it.

Banking on a Minister who knows his brief
The last time a British Minister for Sport occupied as many headlines as the present incumbent was in the late 1970s.

And way back then, Denis Howell's profile had much to do with the fact that he combined the sports job with that of Minister for Drought. In a sticky, sweltering Britain of 1976, this side of his job propelled him into the spotlight.

Since Howell's brief flirtation with fame, however, holders of this government post have varied from the bland to the anodyne. The names trip off the tongue... well, er, no they don't actually. A more forgettable bunch of politicians it would be hard to remember.

Then in May this year New Labour swept to power in the General Election and after Prime Minister Tony Blair had handed out the heavyweight cabinet positions, he picked up the phone and offered Tony Banks the job of Sports Minister.

Banks, a notoriously mouthy, non-conformist, left wing backbencher - and a Chelsea fan to boot, admits he was "gobsmacked" by the offer and suspected it was a hoax call.

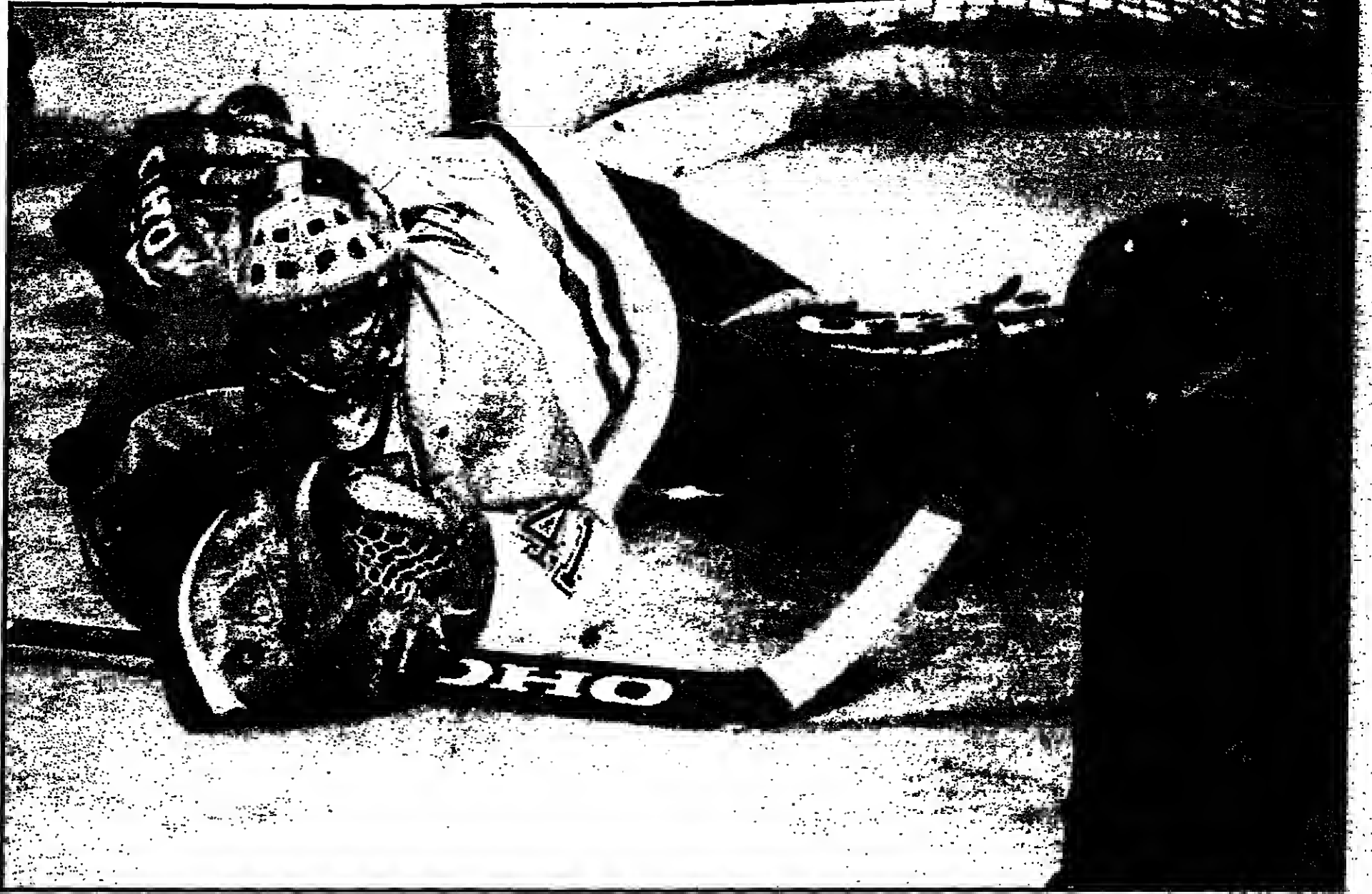
Having realized the call was indeed from the PM, he accepted, and got on with the job of raising the profile of British sport. Which he has done, spectacularly.

The only problem is, it has been accompanied by a series of alleged gaffes. These include crossing his fingers in public when performing the ritual swearing of allegiance to the Queen which all ministers must do, playing down England's chances of winning the World Cup and telling Rupert Murdoch he controls too much sport on television.

Spot anything about the man from this? Yes, he tells the truth. In the safe, hand-political landscape we now have in Britain, Banks shines like a beacon. And we should be very grateful for that.

This man speaks more from the fans' perspective than any previous minister could have hoped to, clearly articulating their hopes and fears. He has a clear command of his brief and isn't afraid to ask awkward questions.

This week, he rounded on his critics, accusing them of having the mental capacity of a mint and vowing to carry on doing the job his way. The hope is that Blair allows this minister to do just that - and achieve the results we are all hoping for.



FULL STRETCH - Canadiens' goalie Jocelyn Thibault makes a sprawling save on Penguins' Stu Barnes during first-period action in Montreal.

Wesley returns to haunt Bruins

GREENSBORO, NC (AP) - Carolina defenseman Glen Wesley scored two goals against his old team, leading the Hurricanes to a 3-1 win over the slumping Boston Bruins on Monday night.

Wesley's goal at 2:09 of the second period was his third this season and proved to be the game-winner against Boston, which traded him to the then-Hartford Whalers in 1994.

Since then, Wesley has 12 points in 14 games against Boston.

The Bruins are 1-7-4 in their last 12 games.

Panthers 1, Canadiens 0
Jaromir Jagr scored at 4:02 of the third period as the Pittsburgh Penguins extended their unbeaten streak to eight games.

The win, in Montreal, allowed Pittsburgh to move ahead of Montreal into first place in the Northeast Division. The Penguins, who beat Montreal 6-3 in Pittsburgh on Saturday, are 7-0-1 in their last eight.

The Canadiens have lost three straight games for the first time this season and are 1-5-1 in their last seven.

Pittsburgh goalie Tom Barraso stopped 25 shots for his fourth shutout this season.

Flyers 1, Sabres 1, OT
In Philadelphia, Buffalo's Brian Holzinger tied the game with a third-period goal as the Sabres remained unbeaten in eight overtime games this season (2-0-6).

Eric Lindros scored for the Flyers, who are undefeated in their last four games (2-0-2).

Philadelphia picked up a penalty for too many men on the ice with 50 seconds left in the third period, but was able to kill it. Buffalo got the only shot in overtime.

Coyotes 3, Panthers 2
Keith Tkachuk scored three goals and the Phoenix Coyotes added to Florida's home woes in Miami.

Tkachuk scored a goal in each period for his fifth career hat trick.

Tkachuk's third goal of the game and 16th of the season snuffed a 2-2 tie at 5:37 of the third period. The goal was set by Teppo Nuuniminen, whose shot was redirected at the net by Tkachuk and got past Florida goaltender Mark Fitzpatrick.

The Panthers have the league's worst home record at 3-10-7.

Flames 3, Sharks 2, OT
German Titov scored 1:22 into overtime, giving the host Calgary Flames a victory over the San Jose Sharks.

Michael Nylander intercepted a clearing attempt along the San Jose boards and found Titov uncovered in the slot, where he beat goaltender Mike Vernon: between the pads.

The loss spoiled the return to Calgary for Vernon, who made his first start in his hometown since being traded from the Flames to Detroit on June 29, 1994.

Vernon, who played nine seasons for Calgary, finished with 25

saves.

Jarome Iginla and Jamie Allison also scored for the Flames, who are unbeaten in four games (2-0-2). Murray Craven scored two goals and Owen Nolan had two assists for San Jose, which is winless in its past five games (0-4-1).

Red Wings 3, Canucks 3, OT
Martin Lapointe scored with less than four minutes left in the third period to give the Detroit Red Wings a tie with the host Vancouver Canucks.

Lapointe fired the puck through goalie Kirk McLean's pads at 16:22 after getting the rebound of a wide shot by teammate Igor Larionov.

The Red Wings extended their unbeaten streak to five games. The Canucks are unbeaten in their last four.

Detroit trailed 3-1 going into the third period, but started its strong comeback with a power-play goal by Brendan Shanahan at 10:39.

EASTERN CONFERENCE				
Atlantic Division				
Team	W	L	T	Pts
Philadelphia	15	8	5	35
New Jersey	17	8	5	35
Washington	13	10	4	30
NY Islanders	11	14	3	25
NY Rangers	11	9	2	24
Florida	8	14	5	21
Tampa Bay	4	17	4	12

WESTERN CONFERENCE				
Central Division				
Team	W	L	T	Pts
Dallas	17	8	5	39
St. Louis	15	9	5	33
Phoenix	13	11	2	28
Calgary	10	13	3	23
Edmonton	9	13	5	21
San Jose	9	18	2	20
Calgary	6	15	7	19

Malone leads Jazz to fifth straight win

SALT LAKE CITY (AP) - Karl Malone scored 19 points and grabbed 14 rebounds as the Utah Jazz fought off the New Jersey Nets 100-95 Monday night for their fifth straight win.

The Jazz held New Jersey to just three field goals in the fourth quarter and made several clutch free throws down the stretch to preserve their seventh straight win over the Nets.

Sam Cassell had 26 points and 10 assists for New Jersey before fouling out.

Cassell's free throws with 3:08 to play pulled the Nets within 90-89. But Cassell slapped Bryon Russell's wrist on a jump shot on the Jazz's next possession and

received his sixth foul.

The Nets failed to score on their next three possessions, and Malone banked an inbounds pass off the back of a New Jersey player and scored with 32 seconds to play to seal Utah's win.

Utah made a 14-5 run to start the second half, but New Jersey made a 10-2 run of its own. David Benoit's 3-pointer with 0:08 left in the third period gave the Nets a 76-75 lead heading to the fourth.

New Jersey got a big game from Benoit, who had 11 points, including three 3-pointers.

The Nets scored on their first four possessions of the second quarter and held a 37-28 lead, but Utah made a 20-6 run over the next 6:57 to move ahead 48-43.

EASTERN CONFERENCE				
Atlantic Division				
Team	W	L	Pct	GB
Miami	10	8	.557	-
New York	10	8	.557	-
New Jersey	10	8	.557	-
Orlando	10	6	.625	1/2
Boston	7	9	.438	3 1/2
Philadelphia	7	9	.438	3 1/2
Washington	4	11	.313	5 1/2

WESTERN CONFERENCE				
Midwest Division				
Team	W	L	Pct	GB
Utah	10	6	.625	-
Houston	6	5	.545	1/2
San Antonio	9	7	.563	1/2
Minnesota	7	8	.467	2 1/2
Vancouver	7	7	.500	3
Dallas	4	11	.267	5 1/2
Denver	1	12	.077	7 1/2

Golden State's Sprewell suspended indefinitely for assaulting coach

OAKLAND, Ca. (AP) - All-Star guard Latrell Sprewell was suspended indefinitely Monday after "physically assaulting" Golden State coach P.J. Carlesimo at practice, the team said.

Sprewell, the team's leading scorer, with a 21.4 average, was suspended without pay for at least 10 games, Warriors general manager Gary St. Jean said at a news conference Monday night.

The suspension begins with today's home game against the Cleveland Cavaliers and will last at least through Dec. 22, St. Jean said.

St. Jean called it a "very, very serious matter." "We aren't going to tolerate the conduct that was displayed on the court today," he said.

Carlesimo, off to a 1-13 start in his first year at Golden State, said he and Sprewell argued twice during a drill in practice Monday.

"I asked Spre to leave practice. He didn't, and he was kind of escalated to some physical contact," he said, refusing to say how he got a visible welt on his neck.

Carlesimo said the two fought again, exchanging "physical contact" about 15 minutes later.

"Basically, we have to have an understanding of what the problems were and how the team operates. We have guidelines. We have very specific rules for insubordination or misconduct by our players, and this certainly crossed the line."

Sprewell suggested Carlesimo on November 9, when the player climbed on the coach as the Warriors were being blown out by the Los Angeles Lakers.

As punishment, Carlesimo sent him to the bench for the remainder of the game, and Sprewell called the coach an "expletive" joke.

Two days later, after a verbal altercation, Carlesimo kicked Sprewell out of practice and benched him for the start of the Warriors' next game against the Detroit Pistons.

Carlesimo called the clash a "team issue" and said he was not going to press any criminal charges. "It's a situation I clearly would have preferred not to have occurred," he said.

Sprewell will lose \$935,000 of his \$7.7 million salary from the suspension.

Trouble is nothing new for Sprewell. Two years ago, he openly feuded with teammate Tim Hardaway. The team eventually traded Hardaway and signed Sprewell to a long-term contract.

Sprewell was unhappy with former coach Don Nelson's decision to trade Chris Webber and Billy Owens. To protest the trade of his friends, he wrote their numbers on the backs of his sneakers.

Pippen's trade demands trouble Jordan, Jackson

DEERFIELD, Illinois (AP) - Phil Jackson and Michael Jordan say they feel betrayed by Scottie Pippen, who has said he'll never again play for the Chicago Bulls.

Jackson said Monday that the Bulls have recovered from the initial shock of Pippen's public trade demand last week. But the coach also said there might be lingering resentment even if the All-Star forward changes his mind and returns to the team he helped win five National Basketball Association titles.

"It's all right to hold it against Scottie," Jackson said.

"We care about Scottie, but we're going to hold this against Scottie because he's walking out on us, there's no doubt about that."

Jordan didn't talk to reporters Monday but said after Saturday's game that he was "disappointed, very disappointed, that (Pippen) hasn't been able to put aside his dealings with management."

Pippen claims that general manager Jerry Krause and owner Jerry Reinsdorf have disrespected him by dangling him as trade bait, most recently last June, and by paying him only about \$2.7 million this season under terms of a contract extension he signed in 1991. Considered one

of the NBA's 50 greatest players ever, Pippen is ranked 122nd on this year's salary list.

Pippen, who hasn't played this season after undergoing foot surgery, is expected to be healthy in two to four weeks but has said he won't wear a Bulls uniform again.

Jackson and Jordan said they might not have returned this season had Pippen expressed his unhappiness during the summer.

"There is that kind of feeling. 'Hey, we came back to do this job together and Scottie ducked out the door,'" Jackson said.

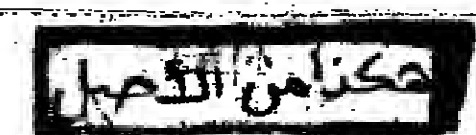
Jackson said Jordan probably wouldn't have come out of retirement in 1995 had Pippen not urged him to do so.

"I don't think Michael forgets the fact that when Scottie was here alone in '94 and '95, that he was... saying, 'Come on back, come on back, Michael, and help me out with this load,'" Jackson said.

"So I'm sure Michael's going to get back at Scottie, hold his feet to the fire."

Jordan already has said that he'll retire for good if Jackson leaves as planned after the season.

"I'm going to enjoy the game and go out with a smile instead of sadness. I've always dreamed it to be



The Jerusalem Post

bloccs

Or and other senior offi...

Security interest map is...

By MARGOT DUKERWITZ and MOHAMMED NAB...

Parliament state already...

meeting with Prime Minister...

to the Israeli cabinet...

to Levy, new talks

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Necessity is the mother of invention in 'The Full Monty.'

was a complex man, consumed by work, devoted to his family, a philanthropist and an authoritarian egotist. Those who will talk about him include Shimon Peres and Edgar Bronfman, Jr.

ADINA HOFFMAN

*** THE FULL MONTY - As you may have heard, Peter Cantone's film is a comedy about unemployed-steelworkers-turned-male-strippers and the highest-grossing British movie of all time. What this summary doesn't account for, however, is the sweetly mild-mannered, even wishful, nature of the picture at hand. The Full Monty is funny, but it's also very sad, and for all its goofy high-concept elements, the film develops slowly and with surprising restraint as a tender little meditation on the pitfalls posed by both moneymaking and manhood. None of the would-be dancers is especially shapely, and a good deal of the humor and pathos here evolves from watching them try to overcome their own klutziness and embarrassment at their utterly real-looking bodies. The movie manages to satirize and sympathize at once with the men's feelings of inferiority - sexual, economic and otherwise. (English dialogue, Hebrew subtitles. Parental guidance strongly advised.)

Whiskey Man: Inside the Empire of Samuel Bronfman is a documentary airing on Channel 1 tonight at 9:25. The story of Bronfman is one of the greatest rags-to-riches tales of the century. The son of a Russian-Jewish immigrant, he started out by making whiskey in a Canadian warehouse and selling to American bootleggers during Prohibition. Later he rose to be the billionaire in control of Seagram's, a global corporation which produces Chivas Regal, Glenlivet, VO and Martell Cognac, and owns diverse holdings such as MCA/Universal Studios. Bronfman

CLASSICAL MUSIC

MICHAEL AJZENSTADT

The winning composition(s) of the Leonard Bernstein Jerusalem Composition Competition will be performed tonight (8:30) by the Jerusalem Symphony Orchestra-IBA under the baton of Mendel Rotan in the gala festive concert which concludes the competition. The program also features music by Bernstein and Brahms. At the Henry Crown Symphony Hall in Jerusalem.

TELEVISION

ELANA CHIPMAN

Whiskey Man: Inside the Empire of Samuel Bronfman is a documentary airing on Channel 1 tonight at 9:25. The story of Bronfman is one of the greatest rags-to-riches tales of the century. The son of a Russian-Jewish immigrant, he started out by making whiskey in a Canadian warehouse and selling to American bootleggers during Prohibition. Later he rose to be the billionaire in control of Seagram's, a global corporation which produces Chivas Regal, Glenlivet, VO and Martell Cognac, and owns diverse holdings such as MCA/Universal Studios. Bronfman

AROUND THE WORLD

Table with columns for location, temperature, and weather conditions. Locations include Amsterdam, Berlin, Buenos Aires, etc.

CRYPTIC CROSSWORD

Crossword puzzle grid with clues for Across and Down. Clues include 'Fighting an opponent of it (8)', 'A painter gets out more when the weather's fine (8)', etc.

SOLUTIONS

Solutions for the crossword puzzle, listing words like 'Confidential', 'The Game', 'The Full Monty', etc.

QUICK CROSSWORD

Quick crossword puzzle grid with clues for Across and Down. Clues include '1 Rosemary (dim.) (5)', '2 Happen (5)', etc.

PRIME TIME TV

Table showing TV programming for various channels (1-8) from 19:30 to 23:00. Includes shows like 'News', 'The X-Files', 'Safarim', etc.

ARABIC PROGRAMS

18:30 Family Matters 19:00 News

HEBREW PROGRAMS 18:30 News Flash 18:35 Hebrew Songs

ETV 2 (23) 18:30 Echo Point 18:30 Mathematics for Beginners

CHANNEL 2 8:15 Today's programs 8:30 Rupert Bear

WINNING CARDS 8:30 Today's programs 8:30 Rupert Bear

WINNING NUMBERS 8:30 Today's programs 8:30 Rupert Bear

JORDAN TV (unconfirmed) 14:00 Holy Koran 14:30 Super Dave

MOVIE CHANNEL (4) 11:30 Suite Q (1985) 13:05 Seeking Stars

MOVIES 14:00 Holy Koran 14:30 Super Dave

MOVIES 14:00 Holy Koran 14:30 Super Dave

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Page 17

Sports Editors
Joe Hoffman & Ori Lewis

College Basketball Top 25
1. Duke (6-0) beat South Carolina State 98-40. 5. South Carolina (3-0) beat Belmont 72-61.

England bumped from World Cup seedings

MARSEILLE (AP) — Romania and the Netherlands will be among the eight seeds at tomorrow's World Cup draw.

The eight seeded teams will be able to avoid each other in the opening round of group games and FIFA's organizing committee decided yesterday that nations such as 1994 semifinalist Bulgaria, Olympic champion Nigeria, and England will not be among them.

With defending champion Brazil and host nation France automatically seeded, the 28-member FIFA committee decided the other six. European champion Germany, three-time World Cup champion and 1994 runner-up Italy, two-time champion Argentina and Spain — third on the FIFA world ranking list — were chosen but the other two places were wide open.

The World Cup draw always seems to throw up a "Group of Death." Tuesday's announcement means that teams like Bulgaria, Nigeria and England — considered contenders for the title — could play Brazil, Germany or Argentina

in the opening stages. The problem of not being seeded is the inevitability of meeting one of the powerhouses in the first stages of the competition.

It happened to Uruguay in 1986 and the Netherlands in 1990.

In 1994, Norway went out despite having the same points as Mexico, Ireland and Italy. The 28 members of the FIFA committee decided to stick to the same format as it used in the 1994 finals. That involved judging teams on their World Cup records, especially the last three competitions, in conjunction with their positions in the latest FIFA rankings.

England has climbed to sixth place in the rankings but was a borderline case to be seeded because it failed to qualify for the last World Cup in 1994. By contrast, it was a semifinalist in 1990 and quarterfinalist four years earlier.

Bulgaria, a semifinalist in '94, lost out because it failed to make it to the 1990 finals and also had slipped six places in the latest rankings to 24th.

Romania, a steady fifth in the rankings after gaining the best

qualifying record (9-1-0) of all 32 nations, was a quarterfinalist in 1994 and reached the second round in '90.

That record meant that the Romanians successfully edged out their rivals for one of the last two spots.

The Netherlands, also a quarterfinalist in '94, got the seeding despite slipping four points to 12th in the rankings.

The 32 nations in tomorrow's draw are: From Europe — France, Germany, Italy, England, Denmark, Netherlands, Romania, Bulgaria, Spain, Yugoslavia, Norway, Belgium, Croatia, Austria and Scotland.

From South America — Brazil, Argentina, Colombia, Paraguay and Chile.

From Africa — Nigeria, South Africa, Cameroon, Tunisia, and Morocco.

From Asia — South Korea, Japan, Saudi Arabia, and Iran.

From N. and C. America — Mexico, Jamaica and the United States.



TOP EIGHT — FIFA secretary-general Sepp Blatter (r) presides over the World Cup seedings. Head of communication Keith Cooper looks on. (AP)

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Packers end jinx

MINNEAPOLIS (AP) — With one fluttering, floating, wish-I-had-it-back pass, the Green Bay Packers' Metrodome jinx finally ended.

Brett Favre threw it. Corey Fuller muffed the interception. And as the ball bounced in the end zone, it took with it the Minnesota Vikings' home mastery over their interstate rivals.

Given the rocky break he waited six years for, Favre followed with a touchdown pass on the next play for a 10-3 halftime lead and the momentum the Packers needed for a convincing 27-11 win Monday night.

Coach Mike Holmgren smiled, his 0-for-Minnesota slump finally over and his fifth straight playoff berth guaranteed. For that he could thank Favre, who avoided the mental lapses that doomed the Packers the last five years; Dorsey Levens, who carried 31 times for 108 yards and two TDs; and a rejuvenated defense that had six sacks, 2½ by Reggie White.

The Packers (10-3) all but eliminated Minnesota (8-5) from the NFC Central race, and can clinch the title by beating second-place Tampa Bay (9-4) on the road Sunday.

Minnesota lost its third straight game, and in the space of nine days has gone from a first-place tie to one game out of fourth in the tough Central.

With a road game at San Francisco up next, followed by a home game against rejuvenated Detroit (7-6), the Vikings' once-solid playoff hopes seem shaky.

The Vikings had plenty of chances Monday night, beginning with Fuller's misplay late in the second quarter.

With the score tied 3-3, Favre dodged a pass rusher and tossed a hurried, wobbly pass toward the corner of the end zone, where Robert Brooks was double covered.

The ball floated right to Fuller, who leaped for what should have been an easy, drive-killing interception. Instead, it bounced off his hands twice and fell incomplete.

On the next play, Favre threw an 18-yard TD pass to Brooks with 2:10 left in the half.

Green Bay 3 7 7 10-27
Minnesota 0 0 0 0-0
First Quarter: GB—FG Longwell 30, 5:15.
Second Quarter: GB—FG Longwell 42, 14:51.
GB—Brooks 18 pass from Favre (Longwell kick), 11:24. Fourth Quarter: GB—FG Longwell 19, 8:02. MN—Hood 4 run (Carver pass from Cunningham), 3:21. GB—Levens 5 run (Longwell kick), 1:52. A—54:01.
RUSHING—Green Bay: Levens 31-108, Favre 4-17, Freeman 1-16.
Minnesota: R.Smith 16-54, Cunningham 3-39, Cleaver 2-4, Hood 3-2.
PASSING—Green Bay: Favre 15-29-0-196, Minnesota: Johnson 15-30-1-117, Cunningham 6-12-0-7.
RECEIVING—Green Bay: Freeman 6-85, Levens 4-25, Brooks 2-43, Henderson 2-34, Chazra 1-6, Minnesota: Cleaver 6-52, Palmer 5-25, Hood 3-20, Glover 2-32, Walsh 2-13, R.Smith 2-4, Hood 1-1.
MISSED FIELD GOALS—Green Bay: Longwell 35 (NLI), Minnesota: Murray 44 (WTR).

AMERICAN CONFERENCE						
East	W	L	T	Pct.	PF	PA
New England	8	5	0	.615	308	233
Miami	8	5	0	.615	294	242
N.Y. Jets	0	5	0	.615	293	252
Buffalo	6	7	0	.462	217	296
Indianapolis	1	12	0	.077	222	348
Central						
Pittsburgh	9	4	0	.692	307	246
Jacksonville	7	4	0	.632	334	289
Tennessee	7	6	0	.538	294	242
Baltimore	4	8	0	.348	240	286
Cincinnati	4	9	0	.308	267	353
West						
Denver	12	2	0	.846	393	215
Kansas City	10	3	0	.769	291	212
Seattle	6	7	0	.462	281	301
San Diego	4	9	0	.308	253	344
Oakland	4	9	0	.308	294	347

NATIONAL CONFERENCE						
East	W	L	T	Pct.	PF	PA
N.Y. Giants	7	5	1	.577	274	227
Philadelphia	6	6	1	.500	247	286
Washington	6	6	1	.500	244	199
Dallas	6	7	0	.462	240	240
Arizona	3	10	0	.231	216	288
Central						
Green Bay	10	3	0	.769	343	245
Tampa Bay	9	4	0	.692	262	200
Minnesota	8	5	0	.615	285	289
Detroit	7	6	0	.538	322	250
Chicago	2	11	0	.154	215	377
West						
San Francisco	11	2	0	.846	304	193
Carolina	6	7	0	.462	214	240
Atlanta	5	0	0	.385	260	312
New Orleans	5	8	0	.385	170	258
St. Louis	3	10	0	.231	225	301

Tomorrow: Tennessee at Cincinnati Sunday, Dec. 7; Buffalo at Chicago, Denver at Pittsburgh, Green Bay at Jacksonville, N.Y. Giants at Philadelphia, Oakland at Kansas City, St. Louis at New Orleans, Seattle at Baltimore, Atlanta at San Diego, Indianapolis at N.Y. Jets, Minnesota at San Francisco, Washington at Arizona, Detroit at Miami.
Monday, Dec. 8: Carolina at Dallas

49ers' DeBartolo may face indictment for gambling fraud

BATON ROUGE (AP) — Edward DeBartolo Jr. resigned as the head of the San Francisco 49ers yesterday amid reports that he and former Louisiana Gov. Edwin Edwards are to be indicted by a federal grand jury for gambling fraud.

DeBartolo's sister Denise DeBartolo York said she was taking over as chairman and chief executive officer of the NFL club. She

said Carmen Policy will continue to run the team's day-to-day operations and will become a minority partner, replacing her brother as the team's representative to the NFL for league business.

DeBartolo's probable indictment concerns events surrounding the awarding of a gaming license in March to a partnership that included DeBartolo and Hollywood Casino Corp.

Austrian ski jump champ receives Yugoslav citizenship

BELGRADE (AP) — Three-time World Cup ski jumping champion Andreas Goldberger has received Yugoslav citizenship, officials said yesterday, the first step to competing for the country following his split with the Austrian Ski Federation.

Yugoslav Ski Federation officials confirmed they were considering filing an official request with the FIS for Goldberger's clearance. However, they said they fear "sanctions" that could be imposed by the powerful Austrian ski officials.

"For example, they could ban our Alpine skiers from training in Austria or prevent us from organizing some junior competitions," a Yugoslav official said, speaking on condition of anonymity.

Nenad Tatic, a Yugoslav ski official, said the Yugoslavs had sent a fax to the FIS and the Austrian Ski Federation demanding details about Goldberger's legal status.

Belgrade media were ecstatic about the prospect of Yugoslavia having a ski jumping champion.

"Goldberger is now our gold mine," said a headline in the high-circulation *Blic* yesterday.

Last April, Goldberger admitted on Austrian television that he had once used cocaine in a Vienna disco. The Austrian federation fined him and suspended his membership.

صكنا من الاصل